Dragalia Life

If I'm to protect Alberia,

I need to undertake the Dragon Choosing!

Euden

Zethia

Notte

So what kind of dragon is this Windwyrm, anyway?

I hope he's cool and strong and totally reliable!

What do you guys think?

Hmmm...

Well, I'll be happy no matter what...

Hee!

But I'd love to meet a beautiful and kind dragon ...♪

What about you, Euden?

Me? Well, a cute little guy would be nice...

You know, like a fluffy, cuddly stuffed animal?

SQUISH

Then I could snuggle up with 'em each night!

Uh, do you need to lie down?

No lying down! We just left!

squish squish

Meet Euden,

a prince with a smile like the sun.

Euden

Notte

His kindness and compassion know no bounds.

Gah!

Euden! Your coins!

Zethia

SWIPE

That's okay. I can always get more money.

Stop, you dirty thief!

Haha, suckers!

Catch me if you ca—

THUD

Oof!

Now! Get him, Euden!

GAH!

Oh no, are you all right? You're bleeding!

Huh?! I...I'm fine, sure...

Use that money to go see a doctor!

WHAT?! You are SUCH a pushover!

Meet Notte, a faerie as bright— and as blunt— as they come.

You two aren't the only ones who can fight!

I've got some tricks up my sleeve too!

Notte

We're outnumbered!

Let's get out of here!

Notte yet! It's my time to shine!

ziiip

Zethia

Euden

Notte Ball, transform!

TA-DAH!

HOW IT WORKS

Wind up→ Launch→ FACE

Notte wraps herself in her hair to form a perfect ball of pain.

Try and steal this, pal! NEEDLE NOTTE!

CRUNCH

OWW?!

WHIFF

What is your hair MADE of?!

Honed and steely determination!

That's amaz— Wait, what am I saying?!

Notte! The enemy is over there!

stab

stab

sigh

stab

This transformation is now forbidden.

Enter Zethia, kindly Auspex of Alberia.

There you are! Safe and sound.

Get down, Zethia! You're going to fall!

Zethia

Here, I'll come up and get you—

Th-that's quite unnecessary!

I have everything under control. Just stay down the—

AH!

Euden

AAAHHHHH!

I've got you!

Grab

TA-DAH!

Just as I planned it!

You call that a plan?!

Behold Elisanne, dutiful Paladyn and seeker of justice.

It is my duty as a Paladyn to protect you!

Elisanne

Leave this to me!

Elisanne is really something else...

Whoa...

THWACK!

Euden

Hmm?

Whoa! What's that little tail on your belt there? (So fuzzy!)

EEEP!

Th-this is just... something that aids me in battle!

It's not because it feels good to touch or anything!

I love fluffy things too! Who knew we had that in common?

O-oh, really? In that case...

Would it be okay if I fight in this?!

Would it EVER!

Meet Ranzal, hardened mercenary and go-to guy in times of crisis.

Just try findin' someone tougher'n me. I'll wait!

Ranzal

Us being buds calls for a celebration! Feel like a dip?

You know it!

Euden

Wash up!

scrub scrub

WHOOSH

splash splash

Rinse off!

Let's do this! Ready, set—

...Aaaaand lemme just check the temperature here.

SPLASH

Wait, what?!

sploosh

↑ thermometer

What? I don't wanna get burned, all right?!

Now, now. Here, do you need me to hold your hand?

poke poke poke poke

You makin' fun of me?! That's it— I ain't talkin' to you no more!

Welcome Ezelith, self-proclaimed genius and enemy of "defeat."

There's nothing in this world I can't do!

A genius, eh? Teach me some'a that magic, then!

crackle

Ranzal

Ezelith

All right! First, you just go like this—

swish swish crackle

C-could ya slow it down a little?

Huh? No, it's just like this! Easy-peasy!

swish swish crackle

I ain't followin' this at all!

How hard can it be?!

Uh... Maybe ya ain't so good...

...at this whole teachin' thing.

Hey! Ya been in there for three days, Ezelith! What're ya doin'?!

scribble

scribble

scribble

Just you wait! I'm going to teach your dimwit pants off!

BANG BANG

How to Teach Dimwits

All hail Xander, exiled former ruler of a distant land.

This castle belongs to me now. Prepare my royal residence!

Ranzal

Uh, we ain't got one'a those.

Heh!

Xander

No royal residence?! What kind of castle IS this?! Make one this instant!

What a royal pain in the rear...

waaaah waaaah

thunk thunk thunk

...There. She's all yours.

ta-daaah...

Xander

That... is a **DOG HOUSE!**

The gall! **I am a KING!**

grrrrr...

If you think a king would deign to live in this shack...

Xander

.....

My word. It's rather cozy inside!

He actually likes it?!

Xander

Meet Cleo, guardian of the Mistholt.

Because I've been on my own for so long,

I'm adept at all manner of domestic tasks...

Cleo

Gya! I ripped my dang clothes!

Allow me.

schwip

stitch stitch stitch

Voila! Done.

Whoa!

That was fast!

Wait, what—!

TA-DAAAH!

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!

The fur was filthy, so I replaced it with frills.

How am I supposed to fight in somethin' so DELICATE?!

click

What's all the commotio—

Gya! Sorry!

WOULD IT KILL YA TO KNOCK?!

Say hello to Luca, a young archer from the forest.

I've got nerves of steel, and my arrows always fly true!

So cool!

Luca

Hey, check it out! I found us a treasure chest!

twitch!

Awesome!

Let's see what's inside!

twitch twitch twitch twitch

Can't wait!

Hmph. It's just a treasure chest.

There's no need to get so worked up about it...

HOLY—!!

VA-VOOM!

TWITCH!

For some reason, it's like I can read his mind...

Argh! What is it?! I MUST KNOW!

twitch twitch twitch

Those ears don't lie!

shudder shudder

Nefaria is the recently revived queen of a distant realm.

Wow, you're cold to the touch!

Nefaria

Dead bodies tend not to retain heat.

My people and country were destroyed long ago. Only I remain.

.....

You poor thing!

Never fear! I've got the perfect plan!

You do?!

Look! Now you'll never be lonely again!

OMG!

So cool!

Feels great!

This was NOT my desire!

This is Lily, princess of ice.

I'm searching for a flower that won't freeze!

Lemme help!

Lily

Hey, Lily? Does usin' yer powers make ya cold?

Nope!

Not ever!

Hee hee!

Well, that's kinda...

Surpr-ICE-ing, eh? Ehhhhhh?!

Get it?

SHEEEN

LILY!

I can't believe I totally froze up like that!

Oof. Now I know why...

Color me surpr-ICE-d...

Meet Orsem, die-hard skate fanatic.

Orsem

I dream of a world where everyone loves skating as much as me!

Will you teach me how to skate, Orsem?

Of course!

Anyone else want to learn?

Nah, we're good.

Okay, then! Euden! First you gotta go fwoosh... and then you gotta go whoosh!

Huh? Um... you mean, like this?

Perfect!

Yes! You're doing great!

fwoosh

You're going to be a pro in no time!

Stupendous!

Amazing!

You've got the build for it!

Aw, you're just saying that...

Wonderful!

Not at all. It takes talent to skate on one leg!

Brilliant!

I bet you're gonna be even MORE awesome once I let go!

H-how hard could skating be?

We could totally do that!

N-no need for praise, of course!

rustle

rustle

rustle

rustle

Boy, you all sure change your minds quick!

Celliera is a passionate trainer and armsmaster.

Come to me if you're worried or need advice. I'll do what I can to help!

I wanna get stronger!

Great! Time for some drills!

Celliera

Those two left days ago...

Are they ever coming back?

We're home!

SLAM

Check out how much Luca's improved!

TA-DAAAH

CRUNCH

Luca

Amazing, right?!

Luca

Too much... training... Celliera...

Chest muscles... weren't made to move like that...

Aww, Euden's dreaming about doing drills with me!

He must really love training!

Hehe

Somehow I doubt that's it...

snap pop

The meditating swordsman Mikoto is one with nature.

My cat, Mineuchi, went missing while I was training. I must find him.

Oh no! I'll help you look!

Mikoto

Check out the paw prints here!

Maybe he's inside this log!

Hmm... Let me take a peek inside.

Well? Find anything?

.....

...Mikoto? You there?

I have become one with the tree... Ohm... Ohm...

What are you doing?!

...Sorry. I tend to get wrapped up in nature.

Let's just look somewhere else!

Hyah!

Julietta

Way to go, Julietta!

SMASH!

Julietta comes from a long line of Paladyns.

Aw, that was nothing. But if you want to hold a tea party in my honor...

Great idea. Time for tea, everyone!

I shall fetch the sweets!

I'll nab an umbrella!

I'll find us a server!

Then I—

I can—

Er...

Oh, don't worry, I can handle this.

I...I'm just keeping you company! That's all!

Emile has always been jealous of his younger brother, Euden.

Euden, Euden, Euden! Why is everyone so in love with Euden?!

Gaaah!

Emile

What does HE have that I DON'T?!

I'm better at fencing...

and smarter...

and FAR more attractive!

I'm kind... and a gourmand ...

and I mean, do you SEE this hair?

Honestly, I can't think of a single thing I lack!

Could it be...

Gasp!

I'm TOO perfect?!

Ha, that's it! Everyone's just jealous of me!

FWUMP

Er, is he serious?

Just you wait, rookie. This is him on a GOOD day.

Trick or treat, Elisanne!

Now give me some candy or else!

I knew you would come knocking. Luckily, I'm well prepared!

Now open your hands.

Whoa! You're the best!

GYA AAA ÂH!!

Th-that's a human hand!

That's right.

In my quest to become a vampire, I now snack only on human blood. Doesn't this look delicious?

Heh heh...

SLUUUURP

AAAAHHHHH!!

Hee hee! Just kidding! Edward made this out of chocolate. Isn't it great?!

Um... Luca?

←Edward

LUCA?!

Wow, Althemia! You made that costume yourself? That's amazing!

What?!

I...

Th-this is... nothing s-special...

Althemia

I wonder what kinds of costumes you'd make for all of us?

A-all of you? Um, well...

I suppose I'd make Luca a mummy...

Ranzal a wolf...

And Euden...

Handsome Vampire

<Velcome, Althemia.

Handsome Pirate

Hmm...

Yar!

Oh no... He looks good in everything!!

There's too much to choose from!

Um, Althemia?

Can't you think of something for me?

What?!

N-no! Th-that's not...

I can't! You look the same in everything!

What?!

So embarrassing...

Of course, she later apologized.

Rawn dwells in the forest with the animals.

Euden help hunt. Hold this!

Rawn

Huh? What for?

Shh. Birds noisy. That mean coming soon...

There! Meat!

CLOP

What the—?!

CLOP CLOP

Aaahhh! Why is it after meee?!

MOOOOO!

Gah!

Red cloth useful!

Ready... Aim...

SNORT!

HURRY UP AND FIRE ALREADY!

Yes!

So much MEAT!

Th-that's the last time I help you hunt...

gasp

Harle is the chief of the Dyrenell Empire's capital guard.

Emile: You there! Harle! You look like you know some sleight of hand. Entertain me!

Harle: As you wish.

Emile: Might I have one of those apples?

Harle: Very well.

Emile: This better be good, or you'll be sorry.

Harle: Now then...

Emile: Will he conjure another?

Harle: Make art out of the peel?

Harle: Voila! It's gone!

Ta-daaaah

Emile: Whoa...

Harle: I mean, wait— those are bite marks! You just ate it!

Emile: What a dirty trick. You owe me an apple!

Grrrr!

Harle: Prince Emile! I would never trick you!

Emile: All I did was ask if I could have an apple.

Harle: Ha ha!

Emile: Rrrr! You are so infuriating!

Amane, the child of miracles, does not seem to age.

Do not treat me like a child! I'll have you know I'm actually 24 years old!

Reeeally?

Amane

Here! I'll prove it to—

Would you like some cake, Amane? I made it myself.

C-c-cake ?!

squeeee!

Hey, Amane! Come play cat's cradle with us again!

Oooooh!

I LOVE that game! Here, which string shall I pull...

Whew... That was yummy, but a full belly always makes me sleepy...

yaaawn

Oh my! Look at the time!

My bedtime is 9 o'clock sharp!

Night night!

You SURE you ain't a kid ?!

What happened to provin' yer age?!

Leif, also known as the White Sparrow, is the captain of the royal guard.

It is time to train, Prince Emile.

Ugh, are you kidding me?

Lief

I know... I'll play sick!

cough cough

Oww, my throat! I think I'm coming down with a cold!

Are you unwell, sire? Pray forgive me.

Training can wait. Perhaps you should take the day to rest.

I wouldn't want your cold to develop into something worse.

Here. Drink this. It's a special tonic I made that should strengthen you.

Oh! Well, don't mind if I do!

Score!

It is a blend of over 200 fish, animals, and plants that are extremely healthy for you.

I hope you like it.

Ugh... This tastes like mud...

Were you trying to poison him or what?

Of course not!

I drank some myself this very morning!

I should've just gone to training...

HMMM

Harle

The merchant Naveed is a skilled lithomancer.

Lithomancy unlocks mana within jewels to set them ablaze.

Whoa!

Naveed

Wait, you can set fancy jewels on fire?!

We're gonna be filthy stinkin' rich!

GEM GRILL

meat

Gem Grill

Gem-grilled meat! Get yer gem-grilled meat here!

Grilled with only the finest gems! Ya can't find this stuff anywhere else!

On sale! Limited time only!

I'll take 20!

Comin' right up!

Er, is everything okay, Naveed?

.....

Behold!

Wh-where did that come from?!

I was just thinking that higher-grade meat would probably sell better.

TA-DAAAAAH

And why are you so into this ?!

Magical scholar Sinoa's life is... interesting.

Are you okay?!

BOOM!

Eeeeeeek!

Sinoa

sigh Another failed experiment...

Looks like we'll need to clean the room... again...

Actually, I have JUST the thing for this occasion!

TA-DAAAH!

It's my new invention— Mr. Magi-Clean!

Sinoa, wait! Are you sure this thing's safe?!

Maybe we should try it outside firs—

CLICK

Aw, no worries! Mr. Magi-Clean is harmless! Here, watch!

Caw! Caw!

BOOOOM!

There'll be nothin' left of this place soon...

Melsa is a sylvan whose memory is second to none.

Hmm? We're short a few bread rolls.

What?! Has someone been stealing food again?!

Melsa

I'm certain it was Ranzal and Luca!

H-hey, it wasn't us! I swear!

We're not ALWAYS guilty, you know!

'Sides, it looks like they're all there to me.

Hmm... I don't remember exactly how many there were...

Well, I do. We're short exactly two rolls.

I also remember Ranzal stealing a waffle yesterday ...

Luca taking two apples the day before...

And each of them swiping five cookies last weekend.

How's she remember all that?! Note to self: don't get on her bad side...

That's it! No dinner for either of you tonight!

Little Maribelle loves to stand up for her forest friends.

Hey! Scaring animals is an unforgivable crime!

Maribelle

...O-oh, were you eating? My apologies! Just let me know when you're done.

She's sure polite for a kid...

Ah-ahhh. All adults know it's rude to talk with your mouth full.

Someone that tiny talkin' about adults? Pffffft!

What's so funny?

No need to be angry. Here, have some sweets!

OH MY GOSH!

I can really have all these?!

Are you SURE?!

It's all yours.

Heck, have a sandwich, too!

Wow, you guys are the BEST!

Xainfried is a member of the Aegis tribe of dragon guardians.

Are you hurt?

Not at all, thank you.

That was some impressive fighting back there.

Xainfried

If you know its weakness, there is no foe you cannot slay.

Does that require special training, or...?

My only specialty is observing dragons.

Would you care to read my notes on the subject?

Can I ?!

Of course.

My Happy Dragon-Raising Journal

By Xainfried

?!

Day 17, Sunny
They slept 47 minutes longer tha usual, today, so their scales and are in excellent condition. The s enhancing herb I mixed into the have worked well! What a blessi it is to witness the sheer beauty of the two of them in flight. The ti spend together is a bliss I will not allow anyone to intrud upon—a secret that only w ay share, forever

Uh... this is... fascinating? I suppose?

That's Volume One. I have 64 others.

Would you care to read those as well?

Hildegarde joined the prince after receiving a sacred vision.

I am here because the goddess wills it.

It is my duty to see her wishes done.

Daarliiing!♪

Hildegarde

Hmm?!

Shameless transgressors! Such behavior defies the goddess's commandments!

Whoa! Easy there!

Hear me, Hildegarde... It is I, your goddess...

Forgive this girl... She bears no ill will.

?!

G-Goddess?! So be it! You are forgiven!

pat pat

Well done, O noble Hildegarde...

You and the prince shall be together for years to come...

You, too, are to give unto him your love...

Y-yes, I shall, Goddess!

I shall love him with all my heart!

Whoa?!

Good... Real good...

You're being played, you fool!

Louise is as doting a sister as they come.

I won't let anyone lay a finger on Lowen!

Lowen

Louise

Seems like the two of you are really close, huh?

Is there a problem with that?!

Not at all. It just reminds me of my own sister.

Aâaah

She used to feed me in exactly the same way.

Honestly, it was my favorite part of the day.

Say "Aaah..."

Oh, really? Well, I love helping Lowen shop for new clothes, you know.

He always poses in them. It's so cute!

Yeah? Whenever Zethia got a new dress, she'd want to take a walk to show it off. Adorable!

Oh? When WE take walks, Lowen always holds my hand!

With Zethia—

With Lowen—

Hours later...

No way... Zethia is much...

No! Lowen is far more...

They've been at this for six hours!

I can't talk about nothin' for THAT long...

Lowen is Louise's younger brother.

Wooosh!

We're crossing a rope bridge in THIS wind?!

Lowen

Well, that's the only way to the other side.

But it's so high... I'm scared...

creak creak

In that case...

Why don't you try crossing with your eyes closed?

THAT'S EVEN WORSE!

I'd feel every little shake that way!

No good, huh...

Then I'll just have to carry ya!

Too high! Too hiiiiigh!

This is a nightmare...

6'1"

Wait, wait! Put me down! I have an idea!

Final Form!

Right-o. Hold on tight.

Hurryyyyy!

creak creak

KOALA-STYLE

And so, they made it across...

Let's compete to see who's the better archer! Closest to the bullseye wins, okay?

Hawk is a man of few words.

You're on.

Hawk

I'm up first. Aaand... fire!

WHOOOSH!

Impressive.

THWACK!

Woo-hoo! Eat it, pal! You can't beat me! How you gonna top that?!

I never shy from a challenge.

WHOOSH!

THWACK!

?!

We hit the same spot. I suppose that makes this a draw.

(A draw?! I wouldn't call that a draw... More like a perfect strike!)

gulp

Alas, Luca lacked the courage to put his thoughts to words...

Sarisse is a kind girl who cares deeply for her village and her older brother.

You had me worried, dummy! Don't EVER do that again!

Heh...

Yeah, yeah, I won't.

Sarisse

And what if you'd been eaten by a dragon?! What then?!

Oh, he'd be nothin' but mush.

There wouldn't even be bones left.

Wait, really?

Waaaah! I can't believe you'd leave me all alone to bury your mushy corpse!

Hmph. Some brother.

Simply shameful.

Hey! I'm still alive, you know!

Don't worry, kid. WE would never die and leave ya behind.

That's right. We must stick together like family in these trying times.

Aw, you guys...

I...

But...

Yay, Sarisse! Cheer up!

Thank you!

Waaah! I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!

Captain Karina sails the seas with her merry band of pirates.

Follow my lead, lads!

Aye aye, Cap'n!

Karina

The unity of your crew is amazing.

Heh. I have them very well trained.

Yar, we loves our captain!

None look better in a sea breeze, by gar!

La la laaaa♪

She be lovely, but she eats like a shark!

It be the perfect contrast!

Wow!

Oh, stop...

And ya should see the show she puts on after a feast!

Time for a shanty, boys! Ready those pipes!

I told you to keep that a secret!

Yar, sorry, Cap'n! I won't tell 'bout the lullabies ya sing neither!

Zzz...

HEY!

I heard nothing...

Brunhilda the Flamewyrm was madly in love with the prince.

What do you think, darling? I look human, yes?

Wow! That's amazing!

Mym

Hee hee! Praise me more!

Uh... Umm... You're... amazing?

Oh no! Darling, you're hurt! Here, let me kiss it better.

K-kiss it?! Uh, y-you don't need to do that...

Now, now. No need to be so shy around your girlfriend, darling.

AAA-CHOO!

AAAH...

Aaah...

Nooooo! Stay with me, darling!

She still has a lot to learn about being human...

Berserker lives for the thrill of battle.

I am but a humble mercenary.

Berserker

Isn't that helmet annoying? You can't even see your expression!

Ha!

I see its greatness is lost on you, Notte.

All men dream of wearing armor like this.

What?

The hidden face makes him alluring and mysterious!

While the horns on the helmet match perfectly with the shoulder spikes.

?!

!!

The cape? The wings? His armor is the height of beauty!

It's the perfect symbol of a true warrior!

Right, Berserker?!

Um...

Er...

Stop it! You're making me blush!

So what? We can't see it anyway!

There goes the alluring mystery ...

Lucretia is the finest singer in all the land.

Helping with the cleaniiiing ♪ Got to make the floor shiiiine ♪

Lucretia

Do you always sing while you clean?

No. But I thought it would be more fun if I did.

I am far too shy to sing in front of others.

Then perhaps we should sing together!

Wh-what?!

Follow my lead!

With some water and a mop♪

W...with water and... mops...

We'll clean till we drop ♪

W...we clean... until we drop...

See? I told you it's fun to sing with others! ♪

So fun! ♪

Now strike a pose!

HEY!

Wha...?!

You've been mopping the same spot for an hour!

Oh dear... It looks like we got a bit too into our performance...

Vixel is an up-and-coming music conductor.

Might you assist me with breaking these eggs? I'm making a cake, you see.

Sure thing!

Vixel

Incidentally, did you know it's possible to make music with eggs?

Hey, yeah! I hear it!

Hah! This is kind of fun!

tap tap SPLAT

tap tap tap

tappity tap tap

Lightly, now! In step with the rhythm!

And now more forcefully! Fortissimo!

KERSPLAAAT!

drip drip

...and a pianissimo...

I call this piece "Fleeting Lives Sacrificed for the Greater Good"...

Howzabout "Don't Play With Your Food"?

Come on, let's try and fish them out

Perhaps that would be for the best...

Pia belongs to the Harmonia Choir.

Aww... That mouse is pretty cute.

Yep! He's my friend.

Pia

He says "Hello, Your Highness!"

"I want to be your friend!"

It would be my pleasure! What's your name?

?

"It's Clam Chowder!"

Clam... Wait, that's really his name?

squeak!

It's because his fur's the color of clam chowder.

O-oh... I see...

Oh! Let me introduce you to my other friends, too!

Chowder...

squeak! squeak!

This is Ham Hock...

And this is Open-Faced Turkey Sandwich...

Oh man, now I'm getting hungry...

Th-they're just names, right?! Please tell me you're not thinking about eating your friends!

rumble...

Elias is a member of the Harmonia Choir.

Elias

The choir's centennial recital is approaching.

I've got to keep practicing. I don't have time for anything else!

You really are dedicated.

I must be! I've been given a most important part in the—

Step right up! Get your Maritimus-shaped cakes here!

The Choir's Dragon Maritimus

Buy one! Buy 'em all! Get 'em while they're hot!

THOSE CAKES ARE ADORABLE!

Whoa!

So cute...

Y-yesirree, cute as a button. And only available for the centennial!

Uhh...

Well, I SUPPOSE I can help you finish these. But I assure you, I have ZERO interest in that dragon or its cuteness!

Have you ever had the chance to pet Maritimus?

J-just the once...

I'm jealous. That's once more than I have!

munch

munch

munch

munch

And thus, a friendship was born...

Verica is known for being a skilled seer.

Your Highness...

Please let me help you face whatever fate has in store for you.

Verica

Hmm... My augury tells of a future where your sleeve frays and tears.

RIIIIP!

Let me mend it before that can happen.

Wait, really?

In that case, thank you.

I see a future where you drop a plate when you try to eat unaided!

Open wiiiide!

Wait, what?!

Um...

Wish I was him...

Come along, now.

I have foreseen you getting chilly after your bath!

AAAARRGGGH!

V-Verica? You're being way too overprotective.

I can handle the odd bit of misfortune once in a while!

Yes, I suppose you're right. I'll tread lighter from now on.

Hee hee!♡

...Still, your reactions are so cute!

Karl is a warrior fighting for one thing...

Justice will be delivered by my hands!

JUSTICE!

Will you PLEASE keep it down?!

Karl

All your shouting is giving me a headache!

There's nothing just about attempting to silence justice!

Surely it's equally as just to remain silent as it is to be noisy, yes?

Hmm. You have a point.

JUSTIIICE!

Guys, please stop figh— Wait, she does?

Today... I will deliver SILENT JUSTICE!

The hell is "silent justice"?

Maybe you take a nap or something?

?

? ?

He can do whatever he pleases so long as it's quiet.

justiiice...

.....

Okay, this is freakin' me out!

His eyes are so distant... What is he even looking at?

Ya gotta forgive him, Cleo!

Curse you, justice!

Vanessa aims to be the strongest woman in the land.

En garde, Elisanne! Let us see which of us is more powerful!

Not again!

Vanessa

Save me, Cleo! The woman refuses to leave me be!

Very well. If you wish to fight Elisanne, you'll need to defeat me first...

...in a sewing battle!

You're on, sister!

The one who adds the most charming... frills...wins...?!

Made by Cleo

Made by Vanessa

Wow!

The frills are so evenly spaced... I've never seen a better job!

This is truly beautiful work. I'm impressed.

And the seams are all perfectly flat!

Yeah, I picked up a few sewing tricks along the way.

I accept defeat this time—but I also demand a rematch!

I'm happy to kick your butt whenever!

Maybe use different models next time, yeah?

This is my first time celebrating Dragonyule. I'm looking forward to it!

Yeah! So let's decorate that tree already!

How exactly does one "decorate" a tree?

Well—

Your king can help you with that!

Um... Xander?

You've just hung ornaments of your own face! ... Which is VERY disturbing, I might add.

The heck, man?!

You should feel honored to gaze upon the visage of the greatest regent in the land!

.....

In that case, we should put the prince's face on top of the tree.

What? No! Enough with the creepy face ornaments!

Er, but isn't that how these things are done?

No it is NOT!

The top will be adorned with a full-body model of myse—

Enough already!

I shall make this a Dragonyule to remember by hand-delivering gifts!

Xander

Now bring me a sleigh, vassal!

We ain't got a sleigh.

Then MAKE one! Also, it must be lavishly decorated! AND have space for three people as well as my attendant!

How many demands

does this guy got...?

Fine work, my good man!

In return, you shall be the first to receive a present.

Well, that's... weirdly generous. For you, I mean.

I wonder what's...

For My New Reindeer

...inside?

Ha HA! Make way for the strongest Saint Starfall in the land... and his trusted vassal!

I oughta punch myself for ever thinkin' there'd be somethin' good in there...

What the...?

This is quite the weighty sack...

But if delivering presents is my duty, I shall see it done.

Netaria

Ha HA! Conveying parcels on foot, are we?

...Xander? Is that a...sleigh?

Yes, well, have fun and... whatnot. Ta ta!

WHOOOOSH

Hold, Xander! Your presents are...

Ha HA!

WHOOOOSH

Fie, that man causes naught but mischief.

He's dropping so many...

thud

thud

Welcome back! How did the deliveries go?

Alas...

I fear I was not equal to the task.

Ack! What happened?!

Valyx is the fourth child of Emperor Aurelius.

He's as stern as the bear on his battle standard...

Valyx

S-so we might end up havin' to serve Prince Valyx?

gulp

gulp

New Recruits

What if he's really strict?

heave

heave

I think I wanna go home...

Shh! He's coming!

Listen up, men! I am Valyx, fourth prince of the Empire!

From this day forth, you shall...

Eh? What's with the flag behind him?

Quiet, idiot! ...Huh?

Is that...

An adorable, lovable bear?!

A bear?

WHAT?!

Th-that's the flag I was given for my birthday!

Why did you bring this?! Take it away at once!

I suddenly kinda want to serve this guy...

AWW...

Me too!

Aeleen is a gentle soul. ...Er, mostly.

My name is Aeleen.

I used to wield a lance with a group of knights.

Aeleen

Oh, and my hobby is gardening!

Grow big and strong, now!

Actually, Cleo helps me.

...Reluctantly.

Really? Do you do it on your own?

Reluctantly? Why?

Well, you see...

Oh dear! There's a bug on that leaf.

I...must get rid of it...

DIE, FOUL VERMIN!

It's like a whole 'nother Aeleen!

Easy, Aeleen!

pinch

Do spare a thought for the one who has to keep stopping you.

Oh no! Not again...

I'm not sure if I should be impressed or terrified...

Kleimann is as mad a scientist as they come.

My research is my life! I'll not stop merely because a dragon hates me!

Tried to steal a scale again, didja?

Kleimann

Say, what's under that mask of yers, anyway?

None of your business! That's a trade secret.

If ya show me, I'll get ya a draaaagon scale...

VERY WELL!

Heh. Too easy. Now let's see what...

Hey! That's ANOTHER mask!

Wheee hee hee ha ha-hoo!

You never said anything about seeing my actual face!

Okay, now yer just cheatin'! I kinda wanna see the next one though...

Ieyasu is head of one of the twelve wyrmclans.

What is the key to ensuring everyone enjoys Hinomoto's New Year festivities, you ask?

One must never forget to be hospitable.

Ieyasu

Hey! You! Get ready!

For example, sometimes a guest arrives suddenly and without notice.

Botan

Uh-oh...

Have at you!

CHING!

Your lance appears to be chipped. A shame.

What?! No way!

Permit me to sharpen it for you.

Please, have a seat while you wait.

Whaaaaa...?

This tea is quite hot, so do be careful.

And please, enjoy these cakes as well.

A good host attends to their guest's every need, you see.

The art of hospitality is a profound one indeed.

Hmm...

You don't have to be hospitable to your enemies!

munch munch

Happy New Year, everyone!

Fish for New Year's? That's what I call...SOLE food!

I wouldn't... BREAM of eating anything else!

Oh boy, here come the puns. (And they're all terrible...)

Ha ha!

clap clap

I had never eaten mochi before this year, but it's actually quite...RICE!

I've heard bad food puns before, but that one...takes the CAKE!

Aw, not you guys too!

Oh, don't be so serious, Notte!

If you keep whining like that, this'll become a... New Year's BRAY!

Ugh, now EVERYONE thinks they're a pun master!

If you guys don't stop, I'm gonna PUN-ish you all!

Nice one, Notte!

clap clap

Happy New Year, everyone!

Sazanka is one of Ieyasu's attendants.

Match!

SWIPE

Sazanka

Dammit! Beat me to it again!

I'll not hold back— even against a guest. (This is how a host should be.)

Do you understand the rules better now? You merely take the card that begins with the same letter as what is being read.

It's rather enjoyable once you have the hang of it.

Addis

Yeah, I suppose. But somethin' still feels off.

Do you really think so?

We often play this game on New Year's.

???

All right, lemme read the next one. Um...

"Super-cool Ieyasu"

SWIPE

Match!

Do you guys ALL got sets of these "Great Master Ieyasu" cards?

Correct. We all play with these.

She's lyin', Ranzal— she makes these herself and hands 'em out like candy.

sigh

Wait, seriously?!

Addis is one of Ieyasu's subordinates.

I'm not from Hinomoto, so becomin' a samurai was tough. There was a lot to learn.

Like what?

Addis

Like the manners and customs of Hinomoto.

Sittin' especially. You gotta sit like this in front of important folk.

Cool! I wanna try!

Tell us more about your training!

10 minutes later...

Then, you have to—

Gyargh! My legs have gone numb! Someone unbend me already!

You're never gonna be a first-rate samurai with that attitude.

Who said I wanted to be a samurai?!

I'm sorry, Addis...

I think I have to get up as well.

!!!

Ow ow ow...

Of course! P-please, get up at once! Here, I'll bring you a chair!

In true servant form...

Waaah!

Hey! Why are you so nice to HIM?!

Botan is a naginata-wielding warrior from Hinomoto.

Naginata, was it? I cannot say I'm familiar with this weapon.

Oh yeah? They're pretty similar to lances, you know.

Botan

Hey, watch out! We got fiends incoming!

But naginatas are especially suited to horizontal swings— like this!

I see!

WHOOSH!!

EAT THIS!

Oh no!

This is bad. He's left himself open!

Luca! Behind you!

whiff

THWACK!

OOF!

CRASH

Oh, uh... sorry about that... I kind of... acted without thinking...

Am I still in...one piece...?

You'll be fine— I only used the back of the blade!

So the naginata can be used to help people! Interesting...

That is NOT the lesson to take from this!

I'm going to be fighting along with you from now on!

It's great to have you on the team. We're counting on you!

Sarisse

Are we really sure this is a good idea? I'm kinda torn...

What? You don't believe in me?!

Here, let's test how accurate a shot I am!

It doesn't mean anything outside of batt—

Forehead!

THWUMP

Shoulders! Chest! Knees! Feet!

THWUMP

THWUMP

THWUMP

THWUMP

LUCAAAAAA!

Relax, they're just suction-cup arrows. ...Anyway, what do you think? Still feeling torn?

They DO have suction cups!

Yeah, torn in half! I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE!

Waaah!

Don't use your brother for target practice!

Annelie is the ringmaster of a traveling circus troupe.

I finished putting the balloons on the roof!

Wow, that was fast!

Annelie

I owe you one, Notte. Here's a kiss to say thank you!

SMACK♡

Hee hee! That tickles!

Oh, and you can have some of these yummy berries, too.

Wooooo! Then here's a thank-you kiss from ME!

SMACK♡

Eeek!

Huh? What's wrong? You kiss people all the time.

I'm used to GIVING them, not receiving them!

Oh man, now I'M getting embarrassed!

I think I'm starting to understand why people act so shy when I kiss them...

Fritz is an expert at throwing more than just knives.

Show everyone your party trick, Fritz!

Sure thing, boss.

What's this about?

Ladies and gentlemen... open your mouths!

Marsh mallows

Ahhh

I never miss, you know.

I have him do this whenever I'm hungry.

That's amazing!

munch

munch

munch

munch

Marsh mallows

Can I have some more?!

Open wide!

More! More!

More! More! MOOORE!

.....

If I give you more, there won't be any left for the ringmaster.

Shall I start throwing cutlery instead?

Gya! Never mind! I'm good!

Bodyguard Orion has had as many romances as clients.

Hello, Cleo! What say you to an escort today?

Pass. ...Is what I would ordinarily say, but I actually have need of you today.

Orion

I live to serve!

Perhaps we can just make it a full-on date, mmm?

Not a chance.

You see, Aeleen and I are getting rid of pests in the vegetable garden.

And you need protection from these vicious vermin, yes?

No, I actually—

CLAAAANG!

flutter

* Shovel

You see, Aeleen tends to go after anything that moves, which makes her quite dangerous...

* Goes berserk in combat

All who invade this garden shall DIE!

So I need you to protect me from HER.

Aeleen

I won't let anyone hurt you!

DIEEE!!

Not even yourselves!

dodge

weave

Good luck

Phares is the second prince of Alberia.

The sun is quite strong today—you must be most uncomfortable in that armor.

It does tend to retain the heat, sire...

Phares

We're trying to keep our distance from each other because of it.

Is that so?

Well, I've had an idea for an experiment.

I have something else I need to get ready, so bring me a suit of armor.

Yeah...

An experiment, eh? Wonder what it is?

He's very enthusiastic when it comes to research.

Maybe he wants to make our armor more heat resistant.

?

sizzle

sizzle

?!

So you CAN cook meat on armor when it's hot enough! Fascinating...

Hee hee!

Is that... the flesh of our enemies?!

You can have some of this beef once it's done.

Oh, it's just a regular old barbecue!

(How kind of him...)

sinne

Eleonora was the chief of a village destroyed by the Empire.

Feel the pain of my people!

Eleonora

That looks like the last of them.

Indeed.

Whew!

Hmm? You appear to have dropped something, Elisanne.

It's...a stuffed toy?!

Do humans REALLY take stuffed toys to the battlefield?!

Umm...

Oh, I get it!

Er, not exactly...

Aaah!

This must be a cultural thing!

I mean... yes. That is EXACTLY the case.

Such toys are an integral part of our culture.

Human culture really is

FASCINATING!

Luther is passionate about dancing.

Time to put my fabulous moves to work for the good of the people!

Luther

Oh, hey. What are you doing down there?

Oh! Hello, Luther.

I dropped a thumbtack a second ago.

Unfortunately, it's proving hard to find.

So that's why you look so down!

Here, let me lend you a hand.

Really? Thanks!

The heck is going on here?!

Go, Prince, go! Go, go, go!

You call that helping?!

Got it! Wow, thanks for the support, Luther!

ALL HE DID IS DANCE AROUND!

Lin You is a traveler from the eastern country of Taiwu.

Mao Mao and I are traveling the world in search of mighty foes!

Lin You

Mao! (We sure are!)

Mao Mao

So you're hoping to become stronger?

You got it. I want to be just like my master!

And THAT means I've gotta beat loads of tough foes and aim for the top!

Mao Mao. (We've had some tough fights so far.)

It's true. We fought a warrior unfazed by the cold in the north...

I'm not sure this flashback matches...

While in the south, we bested a dangerous desert fiend.

Mao...

With each fight, we've grown stronger.

But during our travels...

We realized we'd forgotten something important.

Heh.

If we challenge the buffet option, we eat for FREE!

Finish in 15 minutes and your meal is on the house!

I won't lose this battle!

CHOMP

HORF

MUNCH

SLOBBER

That doesn't sound important at all!

Lunar New Year: The celebration of the new year according to the Taiwu calendar.

WHOOSH!

BANG!

It's great to celebrate New Year's twice in one year.

C'mon, firework! Is that all ya got?!

Yeah, gimme more! MOOORE!

Though some people could stand to calm down about it a LITTLE.

They really are excited, aren't they?

Ha ha!

Wooo!

Wooo!

Lin You

If you can't have fun today, when can you?!

By the way, Notte... what is that?

It's a pyroblossom! I wanna see what it feels like to be shot into the air!

Hey! Su Fang!

This here's the cannon, right? Time to load 'er up!

In we go!

Er, that cannon isn't meant for climbin—

Su Fang

WHOOSH!

BANG!

Ku Hai is a wandering warrior.

Xiao Lei: My, what a stylish hat!

Ku Hai: Do you think so?

Xiao Lei: Er, yes. Isn't that why you wear it?

Ku Hai: I wouldn't know if it was stylish or not.

Ku Hai: It merely protects me from the sun.

Peng Lai: Ah, Ku Hai. I would know that hat anywhere.

Ku Hai: As you can see, it also helps others find me.

Ku Hai: And...

CLICK

Xiao Lei: The prince has been looking for you.

Ku Hai: ...It prevents Peng Lai's claws from hurting me.

Xiao Lei: Goodness! That is one fascinating hat!

Su Fang is a master of pyroblossom fireworks.

I'm thinking of kicking off my next pyroblossom show with a bit more... flash.

Oh? How so?

Su Fang

Here, let me load up the pyroblossoms with mana first.

Okay, ready? Here we go!

WHOOOSH!

Thank you all so much for coming today!

I'm the pyroblossom artisan—

B-B-BANG!

CRACKLE!

BOOM!

KAPOW!

Well? What did you think? Flashy, huh?

I th-think it's a terrible idea...

What?! Why?!

I can't feel my brain..

That bad?!

Nina is the most formidable (?) shopkeeper of all.

Welcome! What can I do you for?

The book I ordered, please!

I want some fruit!

Do you have any new weapons?

Nina

Here you go!

THWUNK

Woo-hoo!

Your lineup really is second to none!

Well, you know what I say...

If I don't have it, you don't want it!

Weapons, armor, food... I stock a bit of everything!

That's amazing! Where do you get all this stuff, anyway?

Oh, so you want to purchase information, eh?

Um...

Well, business intel doesn't come cheap... But if you buy today, I'll give you a 20% discount. Only 100,000 rupies!

Er, I think I'm good, actually.

I'll even throw in the art of haggling for free!

Nope! Still good.

Thaniel used to be a sailor.

What would you like for dinner tonight?

Actually, I'm kind of feeling like fish.

Thaniel

I'm an expert at fish dishes...

Wow, Thaniel! This is the best fish I've ever had!

Right!

I'm going to catch an amazing one for him!

Unacceptable!

Not good enough!

There must be better fish than this!

GREAT DAY IN THE MORNING!

Your Highness! I brought you the finest fish in the sea!

pant

pant

What?!

But we've already eaten...

Hmm?
What's got ya so on edge, Hildegarde?

Hildegarde

Oh, I know! Yer tryin' to decide whether or not to give someone a Valentine's gift!

Not at all!

I've just felt off ever since changing my clothes.

Yeah, I guess that is a different getup from whatcha normally wear.

This is true...
And yet, I don't quite think that is the reason.

Melody

Augh! The bowl!

Ohmigosh! I am so, so, SO SORRY!

?!

Hmm? Goodness! My head feels so...right.

That's IT! I needed a hat!

Ahh... I never want to take this off...

I'm at peace now...

Melody needs that back, ya know!

My outfit is perfection itself!

Ezelith

Ah, but of course it is, for I am a genius at everything—INCLUDING fashion!

Here, kitty!

Even this stray cat is certain to fall prey to my charms. Right, kitty?

Hello there!

Meow!

Orion

Fair lady, might I offer my greetings as well?

Get lost, creep!

I don't need your "greetings."

Oh, I wasn't referring to you.

I was hoping to greet that furry feline.

Then I could use the subject of cats to chat you up and—

WHY DOES THE CAT COME BEFORE ME, YOU PATHETIC MAN?!

Meow?

I can't win!

I wanna send someone a Valentine's present!

Then why not help us make some chocolates?

Sure! Gimme that spoon!

Whoooo!

I admire your enthusiasm, but if you keep stirring that fast...

AAAAH!

What did I tell you?!

Oh dear!

One chocolate-covered Notte, coming up!

Ugh... What a disaster...

Ah ha ha!

Notte

Here, I'll get something to clean you up.

I guess I could just use myself as a Valentine now...

Don't you dare!

Hmm, there's an idea...

Notte

Don't even think about it!

My instincts never betray me!

Ryozen is a renowned priest who loves peace above all else.

That's amazing!

Ryozen

A'yup. And now they're telling me that Cleo's coming with food!

Y-you're right!

My, but those look tasty!

Ah!

Give ol' Ryozen a bite of that, missy!

CHOMP

COUGH HACK SPUTTER

They're rotten... Rotten to the core...

That's why I was throwing them out!

Why didn't your instincts warn you about that?

Here, have a rinse.

She's so cuuute!

munch munch

Wellspring Imp

I want to keep feeding her forever!

Hee hee!

She'll get sick if you continue stuffing her full of treats.

pat pat

I know.

But just ONE more couldn't hurt...

NO.

squeak

If you really must feed something...

Feed Ranzal.

My gut's a bottomless pit!

Happy to help!

Welcome home, Maste—

Are you okay?

SMASH!

Eeeek! I'm so sorry!

Experienced Trainee Maid
Melody

We'd better clean that up...

Er, what's with your expression?

It's the face I make when I'm going to be fired.

But please don't fire me! Pleeease!

I wouldn't fire you over something like thi—

Oh, thankyouthankyouthankyou! I'll be by your side forever!

OOF

Ack! Please don't fire me for this...

J-just be more careful next time...

I may need to protect His Highness from his friends more than his enemies.

Albert is known as the Thunderswift Lord.

Stay back! I'll use my lightning on this rabble!

You bet!

Albert

Ryozen

Come forth, lightning!

CRRRACK!

Eeeeek!

Oh no!

I'm so sorry! Are you all right?!

I'm-m-m... f-f-fine...

Oh!

BZZZT

BZZZT

Ryozen! Speak to me!

My backache... It's gone!

What?!

Is it true you give great massages?

I want a lightning massage too!

Massage?! Th-that's not what I...

How exciting!

NO ONE IS GETTING A LIGHTNING MASSAGE!

Odetta is a woman who loves to travel.

I'm always searching out new worlds!

Odetta

Did anything leave a particular impression on you during your travels?

Hmm... Let's see...

Well, I can think of a number of examples.

There was the time I rode on the back of a giant rabbit.

A BUNNY?!

Or the time where I visited a café filled with cats.

meow

meow

meow

meow

KITTY CAFÉS?! They HAVE those?!

You certainly seem to like fuzzy things!

Er, well...

Perhaps you could recommend a new fuzzy experience for me.

R-really? Hmm, let me think...

Hee hee!

They then headed off to pet some fluffy dragons.

Felicia can now dance freely once more.

Phantom

Phantom saved me after I was imprisoned.

Felicia

You two really seem to trust each other.

Just like my darling and me!

I am nothing like you.

You are and you know it!

You are far too happy to be with him!

And what's wrong with that?! Are you NOT happy to be with HER?!

I prefer to maintain my composure.

You're...

...not happy to be with me?

AUGH! SO ADORABLE!

HEY!

Yay!

Musashi loves a challenge above all else.

What's up, Musashi?

Musashi

I search for something that will give me a tough fight!

You seem way more excited about that than is healthy.

Yet pushing my limits is what I live for!

Er, but you're just sitting there.

Yes? What of it?

Well, don't you need to move around a little in order to search?

You mistake my purpose.

Heh...

Huh?

I'm pushing the limits of how long I can bear the pain of sitting in this position!

Such...struggle...!

Okay, well, I'm leaving now.

Aurelius has succumbed to darkness.

King Aurelius

Supreme power is in my hands!

All that I desire is mine!

He's completely different from the father I remember.

After Mom died, he would take time every night to make dinner.

Dinner's ready!

He looked so natural in that apron...

I ♡ My Kids

Muh?

And he always used to read me bedtime stories. It seems like only yesterday!

Once upon a time, there lived a man called Aurelius...

His voice was so soothing...

Zzz...

Ya don't say?

He even fed a stray cat and named it—

Okay, stop. Did Aurelius SERIOUSLY do all that?!

Sorry to burst your bubble...

Heh heh heh...

It's all true!

He admitted everything!

(What a royal shock!)

Heinwald is a magic scholar.

Might I ask a favor, Notte?

What is it?

Heinwald

Can you fly up and get that book from the top of the shelf?

I can't be bothered to move.

What? No! I'm reading here!

Boo!

I expected you to be more generous in spirit.

But I suppose I'll just have to do...THAT.

sigh...

Well, here goes.

Wait, what's "THAT"?

Hair

whoosh

whoosh

whoosh

KER-THWAP!

HOLY CRAP!

I took great pains to acquire this skill so I might avoid undue movement.

Hey, I can do cool stuff with my hair, too!

(Like in Comic #3!)

They then talked until dawn about things they could do with their hair.

Is something troubling you?

Midgardsormr

I'm wondering about the best way to reciprocate a gift.

Hmm...

Munch

Munch

Did you receive one, then?

Althemia gave me some new leather gloves.

Althemia

Your old ones were quite worn, so...

?

I see.

Well, what about this bread? It's quite delicious.

That's nice of you, but we actually eat bread every day.

Ooo! I know the perfect thing!

What is it?

Heh.

Jupiter the Lightwyrm

RUPIES.

Everybody loves fat stacks of rupi—**MRRRRF!**

Now, what I should give her?

The Lightwyrm's suggestion was goo—

WHAT SHOULD I GIVE HER?

Curran is an inquisitor with the Church.

We inquisitors must learn if followers of the Church hold any mishtaken beliefs.

.....

Curran

Mishtakes can be troublesome, yes.

No need for mockery!

You do make an art of stumbling on your words.

You must be terrible at tongue-twisters.

Ha ha!

Heinwald

You presume too much.

Throat Care

AHEM!

Warmups

gulp

gulp

Mi mi miiiii!

In fact, I'll do one perfectly right now!

What IS he doing?

I'm not sure this is necessary.

Right, here goes!

She sells seashe— COUGH! HACK! WHEEZE!

Ugh. All that water went down the wrong wa— COOOUGH!

You need to learn to love yourself for who you are.

No, it really was...

COUGH!

COUGH!

HACK!

Compassionate Eyes

Don't igblore me over here!

Sneaking around all the time must be exhausting. Why don't you go out normally once in a while?

...Anyway, that's what our master said, so Team Stealth should take him up on it!

Where did that come from?

Vice the Assassin

Aoi the Ninja

Team Stealth?

Jurota the Ninja

Well, we dressed up normally, but...

The sun is out and I don't like it.

I'm sure we'll get used to it by the time we reach town!

fidget

fidget

Are you sure about that?

RUSTLE

?

I knew it.

Stealth is just who we are.

Me too.

Sorry! Couldn't help it.

munch munch

And so, the day out ended before it had even begun.

Cleo and Elisanne are getting ready for bed.

I can't get the brush through my hair...

Allow me to help.

Elisanne

Cleo

Your hair is even longer than mine. It must take a lot of work.

And such volume!

It certainly does.

When the air is dry, the ends get tangled very quickly.

And when we camp out for extended periods, it gets full of dust.

But then if there's too MUCH moisture, it becomes one big frizzball.

So it is quite difficult to... Er, did you forget that we are going to bed?

Ah! Yes. So we are.

Your hair is just so much fun to style!

Honestly...

Look at my armor!

Brand spankin' new!

Also got me a shiny new weapon, so I'm ready to kick some tail!

Check it!

It really suits you!

Yes, you seem quite excited.

clap clap

Hell, I gotta protect you guys, yeah?

So don't hesitate to count on me for whatever!

Look at him getting carried away again...

I want to see you swing that sword!

No sweat. Behold ol' Ranzal in all his glory!

You idiot! That armor wasn't finished yet!

But I was so happy...

He might look different, but he's the same Ranzal as ever.

Armorer Malka

Laranoa is a sylvan from a forest to the west.

Did you decorate that egg to resemble Luca?

Yep! Now that I'm back with all my old childhood friends, I'm making eggs to mark the occasion.

Laranoa

You must be happy indeed to see them again.

You know it!

We live in different villages, so we rarely get to see each other.

There you are, Laranoa! Hey, I wanted to talk to you about—

Sarisse

Sylias

Excellent timing, Luca. Right now, she is—

GYAAAARGH!

GO WAIT IN THE HALL!

I take it you want your eggs to remain secret?

Yes, I'm going to take them back with me when I leave.

My friends can't ever know how much I missed them.

I don't understand why I have to wait outsi—Oh, hey! An egg!

whisper

whisper

whisper

Wait—

DON'T LOOK AT IT!

SPLAT!

NOOOO!

Fleur is a budding artist.

Thank you both for agreeing to let me paint you.

Just make sure we look cool!

Sure.

Fleur

First, strike a pose that is both dramatic and exciting!

Excitin'?

S-something like this?

No, more complicated... I know! Why don't you pose together?

Hrm... This is hard...

Howzabout... THIS?!

quiver

Ah! This will be my masterwork!

My brush is moving on its own!

Three hours later...

quiver

quiver

quiver

C-can't... hold... position... much longer...

Huzzah!

Finished!

Ooo! Lemme see!

Behold, I have moved into a new period!

TA-DAAAH!

ROOOO

Hey! We ain't even IN this!

And we spent all that time posing!

Title: Chaos Unbound

The sun is out, the flowers are in bloom... Ah, but this is a lovely time of year.

It's perfect picnic weather!

Oh my. A petal has landed in my tea.

So lovely!

Yes, it is indeed.

Hmm? What's this? Singing practice for the children?

It seems they're still warming up.

Aaaah!

Pia

Elias

Lowen

Actually, they're trying to catch petals in their mouths like snow.

They got the idea from those two!

Aaaah!

Damn it! This is hard!

Stop teaching the children strange things!

Now we're playin' tag... RUN AWAAAY!

We are doing no such thing!

UGH!

This is also lovely!

Ha ha!

Good morning, Master.

Morning, Edward...

Edward

I see you are still half asleep. Permit me to wake you.

Today's schedule: Breakfast—two bananas! Get dressed! Clean room! Wash clothes! Inspect equipment! Gather at front gate! Roll call! Leave castle! d-way point arrival! nch—sandwiches!

Gurk!

Heavens! You are already behind schedule!

Slow down! Somebody will get hurt!

THUD

What did I just say?

...I am certain I have no idea.

Umm... C-C-Cleo...?

C-c-c-can I talk to you?

Ricardt

Of course, Ricardt. What is it?

Th-that plant over there...

Isn't that mendgrass? The one you use to heal wounds?

Er, yes. Yes it is.

I thought so... Oh, and there are ferrisbulbs here as well!

We'd better plant a butter shrub nearby to help keep insects away!

Goodness. I've never seen him so talkative.

Hey, Cleo!

Pop!

EEEEEEEK!

I finished yankin' out all them weeds ya wanted gone!

THUD

Don't startle people like that, Ranzal!

The hell did I do?!

I just can't stop worrying about the prince.

I mean, I know we went through some tough times before we moved into the castle...

But I ALSO know there are more to come!

Don't worry. Nothing will get me down!

You need not concern yourself with His Highness.

Reeeally? Then lemme put that to the test!

Huh?

First, I'll share his hidden diaries with the world!

NOOOO!

Then I'll publish the poetry he keeps hidden in his desk!

My Really Private Poems

HOW DO YOU EVEN KNOW THAT'S THERE?!

Super Diary

Oh, and then there's THIS!

Help me, Elly!

Ooo, so fascinati... Er, I mean, o-of course!

Just a peek will do...

My secreeets!

La la laaa...

Celebrity Crushes

Noooooo!

Please, no more! PLEEEASE!

Sylas is an aroma expert.

Mmm... That smells great, Sylas.

Ah yes, the new aroma I'm working on.

Sniff

Sylas

Laranoa

Oh, you smell, all right.

How rude!

I am attempting to develop a new deodorant.

Yeah!

Sniff

Do not sniff me!

Oh yeah? Huh.

Actually, it smells kind of familiar...

You don't need to remember.

Hey! I remember now!

Hmm...

I told you not to do that!

It's that scent you used when you wanted to hide how you'd wet the bed!

Sploosh!

WAAAAH!

GO AWAAAY!

Uh, Sylas? Whatcha doin'?

?

This is the herb I used to make my fragrance. It burns VERY well.

Don't burn him ALL up—he's gonna be one of my lackeys!

Uh, guys? What's going on here?

Yue comes from a tribe of hunters.

You're always eating meat, aren't you?

munch munch

Yep! I get hungry real easily.

Yue

In battle...

munch

THUNK!

You're eating NOW?!

In the bath...

There's nothing like a haunch after a battle!

Seriously?! You're doing that HERE?!

Relaxing in the bath made you tired, huh?

Just stay awake until we get to your room.

Here, let me have that.

I'll take care of...

Nnnngh!

Unflinching

They're inseperable!

Alex is a mysterious assassin trying to claim Elisanne's life.

I may have failed last time, but not today!

She may have more allies by her side now, but I have a cunning plan.

Alex

I call this "Operation Dress Up As Candy-Selling Bunny."

The cuteness will make her lower her guard—then I'll finish her!

Hello there, ladies. Might I interest you in some candy?

Candy

Ah! I'd love so—

Pass, I'm afraid. We're short on funds this month.

sooo cute!

What?!

Th-then you can have it for free!

No thank you. We're trying to eat healthier.

B-but... the bunny!

Let us be off!

No, wait!

We must stay strong.

sniff All right...

Rrrgh... I'll get you next time!

Alas, the candy Alex ate that day was very salty indeed...

Candy

Leonidas is the first prince of Alberia.

Your dinner is prepared, Highness.

Leonidas

I shall be the judge of that.

Gaaah!

Is this some kind of joke?!

This isn't curry— it's POND SCUM!

munch munch

Eeep! F-forgive me, Highness!

Heed me well! To make curry, one must CAREFULLY dice the ingredients, then PROPERLY select the spices!

Then it must be simmered slowly and carefully over low heat!

scribble scribble

Finally, it is to be served with top-notch, hand-harvested rice!

Ah!-Th-this curry...

The thickness is just right...

The ingredients are the perfect size...

And the spices blend perfectly!

It is STUNNING!

Huzzah for Prince Leonidas!

Ah ha ha! I shall rule the world with curry!

Huzzah!

Huzzah!

You should start a restaurant!

Your mustache is amazing. It's so... dignified!

My thanks, Your Highness.

Raemond

Maybe I should try growing some facial hair...

It might help you become more like your father.

Ha ha ha!

Did someone mention facial hair?!

Ryozen

Why not use ol' Ryozen as a model instead?

This look will make ya more dignified for certain!

Well, I'll be sure to use it as a ref—

No! Mine is MUCH more dignified!

Ha! Yours looks like moss on a log, sonny!

Does not!

Does so!

Oh dear. We'll have to cut you out of this tangle, I fear.

Nooooo! It's taken so long to get like this!

So much for dignity...

EEEEK!

One day, Luca and E.isanne went shopping.
Is this everything?
I believe so.
I'm glad we were able to purchase it all for such a low price.
Then let's get it ba—
Wait! What about apples?!
Apples are not on the list.
Yum!
Welcome!
But I WANT one, and I'm doing all the heavy lifting here!
Surely we can afford ONE apple, right?
This money belongs to everyone— we must spend it frugally.
If we do not, Cleo will be very...
twitch
twitch
Pleeeease!
angry...
Cute Ears
twitch
twitch
with us...
F-fine! Just this once!
And only because they were cheap!
Yaaaay!
Thanks, Mom!
munch munch
I am NOT your mother!

Is it true you've been stealing food from the kitchen again, Luca?!

Aw, crap! How'd ya know?!

You know what naughty people get...

Estelle

The Loving Hand!

F-fine! I can take it!

Guys, we've got fiends incoming!

I'll handle this.

WHOOSH!

Hey! Don't run off without us!

THE LOVELESS HAND!

slap slap slap slap

?!

Right then! Now it's your turn, Lu...

Hey! Get back here, you!

ZIP!

Xainfried once lived in the mountains, so he's helping Cleo and Ranzal gather mushrooms.

Look out, shrooms! Ranzal's comin'!

Let us gather them quickly.

Ooooh yeaaaah!

Watch for poisonous ones.

Xainfried

Is this one edible?

Yes.

What about this one?

Yes, that's fine to—

CHOMP

What are you doing?!

Oh dear.

I think that one was poisonous.

Um...

My whole body's gone nuuuumb!

The hunter becomes the hunted.

You're such a fun guy, Ranzal.

Hee hee!

Stop makin' dumb jokes and HELP ME!

Don't poke me, Cleo!

The wind in this castle is so lovely.

I'm sure I'll be able to hear the wind's voice here.

whooosh...

I'd also like to hear the wind's voice!

Sophie, Observer of Wind Spirits

Then close your eyes and relax.

Okay!

whooosh...

Ahhh...

whooosh...

OHMIGOSH!!

WE'RE HAVING STEAK FOR LUNCH!!

Lunch is ready.

See?! The wind tells you EVERYTHING!

You just smelled it on the breeze!

Zardin is a complete narcissist.

Ah, how beautiful I look in this outfit!

That's a different look for you.

Zardin

We're used to seeing you in armor.

I am beautiful no matter the garment!

La la laa...

Zardin! Stop looking in that mirror while you talk to people!

Maribelle

Are you suggesting I stop admiring my incalculable beauty?

Hmm?

Granny says it's rude not to look at people when you talk to them.

Oh, do not fear.

I can see you in my mirror!

That is SO not the point!

Gracious! I even look beautiful when talking to children!

HEY!

He never changes...

Norwin is a picture-book author.

Is it true ya only come up with bad endings?

Yes, I'm afraid I can't write anything else.

Norwin

This is what I penned today.

Lemme see...

"And they lived far, far apart for the rest of their days."

sigh

Yeah, that's a bummer, all right.

Let's see what we can do here...

"But they were still happy in their own way!"

See? Just stick this on the end and BOOM! Happy ending.

scribble

scribble

Hmm... Let me just add this...

"Or so some want to believe, but alas, reality is cruel."

Why?!

Why'd ya have to add extra misery?!

You can't understand the resolve it took for them to separate!

I cannot ignore those feelings and force happiness upon them!

I do NOT get artists!

Yachiyo wants to become the strongest in the land.

I'm aiming to take down a thousand warriors!

I see...

Yachiyo

That is a surprising dream for one with such cute hair accessories.

Fond of my gee-gaws, are you? Yeah, I think this one's really aces.

Ah! They're all so cute!

Then we got us this one...

Hmm...

It's nice to see those two hitting it off over fashion.

Yeaaah, I'm not sure about that...

This forked one looks like it could inflict serious harm.

Oh yeah. It'll give even the toughest Joe the heebie jeebies.

Yessir, one stab from this poker and they'll be howlin' an octave!

Hey, here's a thought! Let's line 'em up by their pain factor!

It's refreshing for something to be both cute AND deadly.

Yeah... Fashion...

W-well, at least they're getting along...?

Hnngh!
Hnngh!
I must focus if I want to get stronger...
Celliera
Training Avenger Cibella

Someone wants to get stronger?!
Huh?!
Then permit ME to train you!
WHOOSH!

If you train with me, you'll say good-bye to Flabville, and hello to Muscle City!
Muscle... City?
I can help you move faster, too!
Training with Celliera...?

CRRRUNCH!

Wh-what's wrong?
Nooo! Too much training is bad for you!
?

Drinking grape juice again, Master Emile? Well, well.

Is that a problem, cur?!

Certainly not.

Emile

Harle

However, I presume you only drink the finest?

Naturally! I'm very picky when it comes to my juice.

Splendid! I thought as much.

Hmph!

Then why not try this rare new variety?

Excellent! Decant it for me at once!

Hey, Harle? That drink I made...

Oh, THERE it is! YOU took it!

Yes, Master Emile insisted on trying some.

Grape?

Leif

Are you sure it's all right to be drinking Prince Emile's grape juice, sir?

Well, he can't drink it now— he's bedridden.

Ugh...

Urgh...

I'm certain he wouldn't want it to go to waste.

Ha ha!

You are a terrible person, sir.

I will consume EVERYTHING!

MUNCH!

At this rate, we will run out of food ere long.

Juggernaut

THEN GET MORE!

Leave this to me.

Eating too much is bad for you, even if you're a dragon.

Hmm...

Zace

I'll not be lectured by some short-lived being!

Speaking of lifespans...

Lifestyle-related diseases will make yours much shorter if you keep this up.

What?!

Still...

I'd love more dragon bones for my collection, so that's no problem for me.

Hehhehe.

Bone Collector

I...I think I've eaten enough for today! Time to exercise!

Thank you for the assistance.

Nothing beats healthy bones!

Hum de dum... ♪

Mym can now fight in human form.

I'll cover your back, darling!

Be careful!

You're so kind—but leave this to me!

Those fiends won't know what hit them!

Haaah!

CLANG!

Hiyaaa!

THWUNK!

See? I told you I was strong. ...Now praise me!

The lance...

Why does she even have it?

wag

wag

I...guess it's no big deal?

I want to become a knight one day.

So I need you all to tell me everything I'll need.

Well, let me see...

Priest's Apprentice
Hope

Alain

You need a set of tools to prepare a proper retreat!

TA-DAAAH!

Oh. Uh, okay!

You need only a mirror!

ZING!

Beholding one's beauty is the most important part of being a knight.

Ah! How lovely I am in this moment!

Zardin

You need something fluffy!

SQUISH!

Fluffiness calms the heart, both during and outside of battle.

I've taken everyone's suggestions!

Now I'm one step closer to becoming a knight!

NO! YOU AREN'T!

Maribelle is practicing going to school.

Good morning!

What an energetic greeting. Very good!

Maribelle

Have you brought everything you need?

Sure did, boss!

That's Ms. Elisanne to you!

Right then. Let us see what you brought.

Ms. Elisanne!

First, I've got my writing implements!

Handkerchief!

Lunchbox!

And my bunny friend!

...Hmm? Is this everything?

That's everything!

What about your textbooks?

Oh, I left those behind so Mr. Bunny had room in my bag!

They're the most important thing!

AUGH!

Aeleen wants to become a nurse, so everyone is helping her practice.

Thank you all for your assistance.

Aeleen

But of course; I look beautiful when I'm helpful, after all.

Zardin

Doc! We've got an emergency!

He hit the snacks too hard!

What?!

Can you save him?!

...I'm afraid we're too late.

No... NOOOOO!

Maribelle

I'm sorry. I did everything I could.

You CAN'T die, Daddy!

This isn't what I expected from practice!

But as the nurse, I'd better say something!

Um... Always snack in moderation.

Overwhelmed

Is that really the best line here?

The pressure got to her.

Serena is a pure-hearted warrior.

I'm training myself to not be so gullible!

You can do it, girl!

Allow me to help. Pick the winning card—but don't be fooled!

Gambler Aurien

Serena

The card you want is currently in my right hand.

Wait, did you just tell me the answer?

I don't know, did I?

Huh?!

Maybe it's really in his left!

Oh, it's definitely in my right.

Right... or left...

Right... Left... Right! ...Left?

Uuurgh... OKAY! I choose the right!

Bzzzzzt!

The correct card was in my left hand all along!

Wrong

You really must doubt people more.

He deceived me... And I got it wrong...

She looks like she just heard her pet died!

I-it's just training! Don't let it get you down! Um... Want some candy?!

Xuan Zang is a sealer from the Qilin tribe.

We are on a journey to recover and seal ancient relics.

stare

Xuan Zang

Wu Kong
Her Student

Wu Kong! What did we talk about?!

It is unhealthy to snack so much!

Y-you've got it all wrong!

You're holding TWO!

One of these is for you.

Here you go!

As if I would fall for that again.

No, really! A-anyway, I'm gonna eat mine over there!

Does he honestly think I would believe that story?

What a troublesome disciple.

You don't look too troubled to me.

whoosh

O-of course I am! EXTREMELY so!

That's not what your face says...

What?! But I tried so hard not to let it show!

Heh, someone's got a soft spot.

Hmm... Nope, this isn't the knife I'm looking for.

Like I said! Now please, give it back.

How about you get back to hunting treasure chests instead of looking at people's stuff?

Vida

Fritz

Hey, you never know! So just in case...

Oh!

Heeey! Are you new here?

Mind if I check out your knife?

Huh?

I... Uh...

Come onnnn, just a peek!

Wait a sec, isn't this Orsem's? ...You're a THIEF!

Bandit

UHHH!

Guess the jig is up...

Aww... This is just a normal knife too!

Oh well. Thanks, you can go now.

Vida!

Take a good look!

I did! It's just an ordinary—

?

No, the bandit! She's totally flummoxed!

You're just... letting me go?

Hey, Renelle! You haven't seen my knife, have you?

Nope.

How do you lose your own weapon? For shame!

Treasure Hunter Renelle

Orsem

You don't need to make me feel worse...

I was SURE I left it on my desk.

sniff

You didn't just put it away somewhere and forget about it?

...What does it look like?

You'll help me search?!

gasp

Whoa, whoa, all I said—

I knew I could count on a treasure hunter! You're so cool!

C-cool?!

Ugh, fine. But just this once!

Right, of course!

I hunt TREASURE, not lost items!

rustle

Got it!

I lost my wallet! Heeeelp!

What did I say before?!

...Tell me what your wallet looks like.

Come on!

The rain finally stopped pouring down.

Look, Vodyanoy!

Rainbow!

Vodyanoy

There's a puddle!

Vodyanoy love puddles! Playtime!

Wait, if you jump right in, you'll—

SPLASH

Puddle?!

...

What happen to puddle?!

Erk! You just sent it all flyi—

This hide and seek?!

Listen to me!

Elisanne was among those who volunteered to act as a decoy to defeat a fiend seeking sacrifices dressed as brides.

Is it comfortable?

Y-yes, but... It is rather embarrassing as well.

Don't worry, Elly. Just follow my lead.

Your Highness?! Why are you dressed as a groom?!

Didn't we agree to hold a proper ceremony to help us learn our roles?

That is news to me! But... If you're sure—

WAIT!

BANG!

Who goes there?!

Oh no!

!?

It's just like in my novels!

Elisanne is MY opponent! Give her over!

No, WE are going to have a tea party! Back off!

That's not how it's supposed to go!

Vanessa

Julietta

No, stop... Don't pull me...

No... I'm staying here...

How brave of her to volunteer as decoy, despite it prompting nightmares...

In the end, nobody understood her feelings.

Urrgh...

Urrrrrghhh...

sniff

Aoi is an ever-cheerful ninja.

Huh? What's with that getup?

Heh heh! It's a wedding dress!

Aoi

Ninja bride skills are all the rage right—

Wait, you're getting married?!

We gotta celebrate!

No, listen, it's—

Hey, everyone! Aoi's getting MARRIED!

Shadow Stitch!

whoosh

What the—I can't move!

You need to open your ears!

thunk

I'm happy to know how you feel.

But I'm not looking to get married right now!

Oh...

Oh...

I just came to see what the ruckus was about. Didn't mean to watch ya get yer heart broken! Don't worry, bud, you'll live.

Huh?

Wait, no!

Wanna get some grub?

Now YOU'VE got the wrong idea!

Xania is one of the girls chosen to play the part of a bride.

How exactly does one act like a bride?

Hmm...

I'll show you how it's done!

Xania

I attended my younger brother's wedding, so I'm an expert.

First, you need to invite your friends.

Then you need to decide on the music and the menu...

Hmm...

Yer really goin' hard on this.

And THEN you need to write a thank-you letter to your family!

You'll read it at the end of the ceremony.

Understood!

To my beloved brother...

From today on, I'll be part of a new family.

That means new siblings to love, and...

Oh, gosh! I don't think I'm ready for this!

I don't want to be anyone else's sister!

Goodness! Such incredible acting!

I don't think she's acting...

Waaah!

This is a breach of contract, Rex! Not cool!

I-I'm sorry... I'll go and gather some more.

Woodcutter Rex

What's wrong, you two?

Merchant Francesca

I was due to buy some mushrooms from him, but he sold to someone else!

He said he needed to feed his son—

They're not even edible! You were duped, dude!

The whole point of our agreement was to avoid this.

Like, if I told you my sickly mother needed those mushrooms, would—

What?!

I'll go gather some right away!

I'll help!

W-wait...

siiiiigh

I feel kinda bad about this...

Why?

All's well that ends well, right?

Nina

I can't seem to fall asleep...

Lowen

And I shouldn't wake Louise up this late, either...

Maybe some warm milk will help...

creeeak

...Nope. Too dark.

Trouble sleeping?

THUD!

Ack!

I-I suppose I should carry him to bed...

Zzz...

Berserker
On Patrol

He didn't wake up again till morning.

Festival Planner Yaten

Hey, Yaten! Are you free? Could you help with the washi—

.....

Umm... You okay?

Yaten

Zzz...

He's sleeping with his eyes open?!

He loves his sleep, this one. But watch this...

"Festival."

Festival?!

Bwuh?!

Festival Worker Natalie

Wow, it worked!

Er, sorry for waking you; I was just wondering if you could help with the laundry.

...Say what?

What about the festival?

Busy busy...

I... It's a cleaning festival! A HUGE one! Ha ha...

Zzz...

Ack! Okay, sorry, that was a lie!

Don't go back to sleep on me! Please!

Natalie loves to plan festivals.

We could use more people...

Natalie

Leave it to me, bub!

Folks come from miles around for a festival!

Ooo!

Yep! Festivals are the best.

WHOOOSH!

Yaten

First, we need decorations...

Then some food carts...

This is pretty fancy!

Masks

Finally, we need the star of our show...

A portable shrine!

Golden Euden Statue

Three cheers for the golden prince!

Noooo! This is embarrassing!

Secretly loves the statue

At Cleo's behest, Thaniel and Musashi were attempting to catch dinner.

Heavens! Another one!

Few can best me at fishing, friend!

Musashi

Thaniel

We use the same tools, yet you've caught so many more.

Ha! This is a mere trifle!

I usually secure FAR more.

Thaniel

Musashi

W-well, I'll have you know I've ALSO caught some big fish!

Is that so?

Then what say we compete to catch—

Rrrr!!!

...Hmm? What's that sound?

CRIKEY!

Erik

SPLOOSH!!

Oh, are you two fishing? Cool.

I...cannot best that.

It doesn't count if he's HUNTING!

Ooo... Your lace dress is so frilly and fashionable...

Er, thank you?

Felicia

Johanna

Are you interested in lacy clothing?

Well, less lace and more faaaaashiooooo... Erm...

Well, you're very pretty, so I'm sure you would suit—

DON'T CALL ME PRETTY!

I don't have the courage to confess my interest in fashion...

But light, frilly clothes are so GREAT!

Um, do you want to try it on?

I already am.

Huh?

It's important to try new things!

Agreed!

Adventurer Pietro

Explorer Marty

I love exploring untouched ruins and discovering treasure!

Da-da-da-daaaaaah!

Nice!

And I love visiting new towns and talking to people I've never met!

Basically, Johanna, it's important to just grab life by the jowls and pull!

Ta-daaah!

Wearing that is NOT the same thing!

Felicia

Johanna

Sure it is!

Yeah!

sniff

You don't want to match with me?

That's not what I mean!

Alas, her courage was lacking...

Ramona is the second of three blacksmith sisters.

All right, I've set the stove's temperature. You should be able to cook at this heat for a while.

Your blacksmith knowledge is certainly coming in handy.

Ramona

Aw, it's not a big deal. I always did this kind of thing back home.

Heck, I can help with other stuff if you want.

Then might I ask you to knead this dough?

You got it!

WHAM!

WHAM!

WHAM!

Er, Ramona?

What? You wanted me to knead this, right?

It's not iron! Don't tell me that's how you have always done it...

WHAM!

WHAM!

Ramooooonaaaaaa!

Muh?

Muuuuuh?

I understand every family is different, but please just... stop now.

WHAM!

WHAM!

WHAM!

Rena is the eldest of three blacksmith sisters.

You often came to our workshop when our father was alive, didn't you, Ranzal?

Sure did! Man, that takes me back...

Rena

He couldn't shut up about how his daughters were all gonna surpass him someday.

You gals have been honin' yer craft since childhood, yeah?

Have looots of mana!

Hee hee!

Yes, I'd often infuse mana into little knives and such when I was young.

Yer pops was preeeetty proud of that, I tell ya what.

Really? Oh, how embarrassing!

...Hmm?

Sniff...

Oh dear. Thinking about our father must have made them sad.

Ramona

Renee

It's all right, my sisters.

Let me give you looots of happy mana!

You two always let her mother ya like that?

It's not OUR idea! Stop it, Rena!

We're not children anymore!

Hee hee!

This is just what lonely people need!

Snicker

Renee is the youngest of three blacksmith sisters.

My job is cooling the iron once it's been molded!

Renee

That might sound minor, but it's SUPER important.

If you take too long, the weapon is ruined.

Must have practiced it a lot then, yeah?

Yep! Dad was always...

When making mochi, it's all about the speed at which you turn the dough over.

Dad

Got it! What's mochi?

...teaching... me...

?

DAAAAAAD!

She started cryin'!

I did not! This is water to cool our weapons!

Come on, cheer up!

Here, let me make you some bread!

It must be hard for them...

WHAM!

WHAM!

WHAM!

Rena

Ramona

Princess Chelle

How should I write my invitation to Euden?

Chelle

To my beloved brother,

You remember me, don't you? Of course you do!

Hmm...

Hmm, no. It's been so long, I should probably use something less generic.

Hello, my lovely little horsey! I played with you so often you MUST remember me, right? Of course you do!

Yes, I think this would work!

Still, let's try another angle.

To my squishy widdle brother! Are you okay, my wovewy pumpkin? You remember your super-duper big sister, don't you? Yes, you do!

Tee hee!

Funny, but no. I'll just send the first one.

Of course I remember my super-duper big sister!

Er, but did you really write this, Chelle?

AAAUGH! I SENT THE WRONG ONE!

GIVE THAT BACK RIGHT NOOOOW!

Euden's Bedroom

La la laaaaa!

Ha! I made it to my darling's room before he came back!

Today is the day I'll finally sleep in his bed!

He always chases me off when I try to follow him in here.

Mym, you have to leave!

Nooooo!

But if I'm already here, he'll be too nice to make me leave! Oooo, I'm so very clever!

Ah, it even smells like him. This is so relaxing...

THWUMP!

siiiigh...

I hope he comes back soon...

Zzz...

Zzz...

...So that's why yer sleepin' here.

Heh. Must be tough to be so popular.

Still... I mean, ya COULD share a bed with her. She's a dragon, yeah?

I-I don't think that makes any difference...

Anyway, thanks for the bed.

No worries!

Hah!

Niiice! Ya really look the part!

I merely do what is expected of an attendant.

If I am to serve our prince as the great mage Cleo, I must possess the proper aura.

Well, someone's fired up!

But yer also gonna need fancy new skills and junk, yeah?

How about this? HAH!

Gyaaaargh!

BZZZZT!

Oh dear!

I'm so used to targeting allies with my healing spells, I did the same with my offensive one!

Face's a little worse for wear, but eh, I'm still handsome.

I'm so sorry, Ranzal!

Are you all right?!

Here, let me make it right and heal you.

Hah!

BZZZZT!

YA DID IT AGAIN!

Prince Leonidas

The sun is... overwhelming...

My mind grows dim with exhaustion...

Perhaps we should postpone our search for curry, sire?

Urrrgh...

Never! Curry is at its best on hot days such as this!

Do take care to stay well hydrated, at least?

I am no feckless infant! I have water here at hand!

Er, that's empty, sire. You may already be suffering from—

Hmm. Come to think of it...

Your helm would make a perfect curry pot.

My... helm?

I believe Phares once cooked meat on a set of armor.

So...

The heat's gotten to him!

All the curry would spill out of the eyehole!

See comic #59

I'm glad the weather turned out so great!

Agreed. This is the perfect weather for a swim in the sea.

Juliette

But the sun may be TOO strong. I do hope I don't get burned.

Your poor skin!

Oh no!

I'll take care of this!

First, rub this protective lotion onto yourself.

Thank you so much!

Hmm... Now where is...

A-ha! Here, take this hat. Oh, and these layers for your upper body. Oh, and...

Um... voila?

Urgh...

I never knew sun protection could be so...hot.

I think I overdid it...

That is a VERY suspicious getup, madam! Are you a criminal?!

She's innocent! It's all my fault!

Oh no!

Now you just sound like you're COVERING for a criminal!

Estelle

Who's ready for a watermelon-splitting game?!

I've got the stick and blindfold!

And I've got the watermelon!

Celliera

BRING IT!

Uh, that's not how you're supposed to stand—

I know what I'm doing! Just throw it!

You want me to... throw it? Well, you're the boss!

DIIIIIEEEEE, MELON!

THWACK!

WHOOOOSH!

Whoooooooa...

Ha ha! Look how far it went!

If it splatters when it lands, I win.

That is NOT how this game is played...

Come and get 'em while they're hot!

munch

This is delicious, Ranzal. Especially the octopus.

Still, it's disturbing to eat something that looks so similar to Barbary's tentacles.

...Uh oh. Ya noticed.

Barbary

Um... what?

Wait. This isn't REALLY...

I...

I tried to tell her it was a bad idea.

But she insisted. I had no choice.

But... but I've already eaten it!

This is a joke, right? PLEASE tell me this is a joke!

Hey, Ranzal!

I've got the extra octopus you ordered!

Heh heh...

Nina

I'm sorry! I couldn't help it!

Oww!

I'll never do it again! Lemme off the hoo—

Gya! There's an arm in my eye!

Estelle is a preacher.

Make sure to warm up before entering the water!

Wow.

Estelle

Looks like someone's hard at work.

Are you going around telling everyone to be careful?

Many accidents arise from swimming in the sea.

Well, it's good that you... Oh!

Nice job!

I just realized something.

Your jacket collar and ribbon are the same color as mine.

?!

Bwa ha ha! It's like yer a couple!

AW-OOOOOO!

A cou...

OW! OWWW!

Eeeek!

Why ya pokin' me?!

Because you're saying improper things!

poke

poke

poke

poke

Calm down!

Siren is out practicing her singing and dancing.

That. Was. SO good! Now to practice the hook...

Well, she's hard at work!

rustle

Siren

We both love to sing and dance, so I can't pass this up!

I'm gonna steal your moves AND your tunes!

Karina

Karina is known for singing and dancing after feasts. (See comic #34)

Huh? What's with this wishy-washy dancing?!

But her moves lack PIZZAZZ!

I mean, her voice is really good...

They don't go with the song at all!

Ugh! This is TERRIBLE!

Eeeek!

No, no, no! Do it like THIS!

Ohmigosh, that is SUPER cool!

Wait, I thought SHE was supposed to teach ME!

Come dig for clams with me, Cleo.

Colliora

I would prefer to avoid the sun, thank you.

Oh, come on!

Heck, you can use whatever we catch for **tonight's dinner!**

So it will be... free?

twitch

Must save money! Must save money!

Well, SOMEONE'S motivated!

I will do anything to stretch our food budget!

I won't let you beat me!

dig dig

DIG DIG

An Hour Later

I'm going swimming now, Cleo.

I must continue my work.

I appreciate your dedication. Good luck!

dig dig

Several Days Later

We have eaten nothing but clams and rice for three days...

Yes, but the clams are FREE!

Also, we still have another week's worth to go.

PLEASE! NO MORE!

Are you certain it is all right for me to join you?

Of course! We are at the seaside —it would be a waste to spend your time scrying fortunes.

You deserve at least one day off.

Verica

Now then, what say we play volleyball over the—

Excuse me, but are you Verica, the famous fortune-teller?

Could you use your ability to help me? Like, right now?

Apologies, but can you wait a moment, Elisanne?

Of course.

Now then, how can I help?

My thanks.

See, I'm looking for something...

Sorry for keeping you waiti—

Umm...

Can you help me next?

Where did that line come from?!

I'd feel terrible turning people away, but I wanted to enjoy the beach...

Oh, I know!

Let's play volleyball with my crystal ball!

Mixing the two won't solve things!

The ocean calls!

Let's go, Euden!

Be careful running, Luca!

Ooo! Conch shells!

Are those special?

Wait, you don't KNOW?!

If you hold one to your ear and close your eyes...

...you can totally hear the ocean!

Wow! I want to try!

YEEEEOOOOOWCH!

CRUNCH!

Huh?

All I hear is someone screaming...

That's ME, you dope! HELP ME!

I cannot believe you woke me in the middle of the night. Can you not even get water unaccompanied?

No, 'cause I'm SCARED! Aren't you?!

No! I am no child!

Pia

Amane

There. We're in the kitchen now.

Get your drink, then let us return to bed.

Okay...

Who goes there...?

EEEEK!

Huh?!

A Thirsty Berserker

We saw a ghost with red eyes and four horns!

Lowen said he saw it, too!

Sooo scary...

Soon, rumors of Berserker were spreading amongst the children...

Lily

I think someone else should handle nighttime patrols, old friend.

Huh? Why?

A Worried Berserker

I've startled a number of children during my rounds.

Wait. That four-horned ghost the kids talk about is YOU?!

I do not wish to scare them, and yet...

Hmm. That does sound like a problem.

See comics #119 and #140

Oh, I know! Why not try singing while on patrol?

A song will show people they have no reason to fear you.

Lucretia

Darkness

Four-Horned Shadow

Deep Bass

Laaaaaa...

The children love singing —they might even join in!

But I cannot sing.

Get Lucretia to teach ya!

Heh heh...

This is just gonna start more rumors... But it sounds HILARIOUS, so I ain't sayin' nothin'!

Soon, rumors began to fly of the horned ghost's eerie cries of agony...

Mym has learned that Euden won't sleep in the same bed as her if she is in human form.

Hee hee! There's no need to be shy!

But this battle isn't over— it's time for my next plan!

It just doesn't feel... appropriate.

See comic #129

Now that I'm in his room, I just need to wait.

Hee hee!

Good night, everyone!

Here he is!

Hug me, darling!

!!

Mym

It's so cute...

I want to cuddle it...

Sooo cuuute...

But...

Yessss... He's tempted!

Just a little more...

I wanna sleep in your bed, too!

NOOO!

Me too!

Me three!

The Drakes

In the end, they all slept happily together.

What are you making?

A wood carving! I made them to pass the time during my island days.

Erik

But the other day...

Folks would pay big coin for carvings of that quality. You should start selling 'em.

Irfan

...So now I'm trying to fill all my orders!

Wow, that's really...

Um, these all look like...

Yep! They're you! I'm really proud of them.

Ta-daaah!

My customers keep coming back for more.

One, please.

Hmm... You look familiar...

Wait, people want more than one?

What would you even DO with them?!

Fill up your room, I guess.

That way they can see your face wherever they look! Nice, right?

No, it's terrifying!

We're back! That was a really long journey.

It's so good to see the castle again.

I wonder if anything's changed since we... Huh?

I don't remember that big tree in the garden.

Wait, Mikoto?!

Wh-what?!

Mikoto

Mikoto has a habit of getting wrapped up in nature. (See comic #15)

Someone help him!

What a fascinating development!

Don't study him— HELP him!

Nicolas

Sophie

But he looks so happy...

Aaah...

Now cats are gathering around him!

Meow!

Meow!

They did save him, eventually.

Victor is a mercenary.

Those glasses are really cool!

You think so?

Victor

On my days off I wear these, though.

I didn't know you could get heart-shaped glasses!

Wow!

And I wear these when dealing with sylvans.

I didn't know you were so into fashion.

Oh, and these are for when I want to come across as a real gentleman.

Do I look like a gentleman now?

Er, yes. Absolutely.

Really?!

...Of course.

They're actually all to make people laugh, but I'm not sure how to break that to him now.

Th-that's very funny, sir!

After even his former subordinate had to pretend to find them funny, Victor sealed the glasses away in the depths of his closet.

Noelle

Noelle is a messenger.

Message for you, Commander!

Heya, Noelle! What's up?

Kindly relay it.

Noelle

Victor

Umm...

.....

Erm...

Uh oh. Does she want me to leave?

No. She is considering how best to relay the information.

?

Oh!

scribble

Here you are!

AAAUGH! THOSE ARE TOO CUTE!

Er, but it's not really a message.

?

No, it is! Cleo asked me to find out if the commander prefers meat or fish.

Then why didn't you just ASK him?!

Fish.

I believe in fate!

That's why I'm SURE the prince is who I'm destined to be with!

Er...

Philia

What of the person I'M in love with?

You're destined to be together! Make it happen!

Rodrigo

What about my love?

It's destiny! GO GET 'EM!

Huh?!

Jakob

Destiny...

You might want to be careful...

Why? Fate says—

whisper

They're in love with the same person.

Really?! Um, well...

In that case!

We'll just call this a twist of fate! Tee hee!♡

Does fate just mean whatever you want it to?!

I need something thrilling to up the oomph in my life.

Anyone have any ideas?

Maybe you can find someone with a dangerous job and help 'em out?

Joe

...So anyway, you need a hand?

Actually, I have the PERFECT job for you.

Use this—it's real sharp.

Assassin Vice

Now THIS is what I'm talking about!

Huh. Looks kinda like a kitchen knife.

Oh, and things are going to get messy, so you'll want this.

Thank you. Bloodstains really are impossible to get out.

Now, I need you to murder some veggies.

Er, is that a code? Because it sounds like we're talking about cooking.

We ARE talking about cooking! The kitchen is a battlefield! One false step and you're a dead man!

And overcooking a dish is the worst enemy of all!

Now go finish off every last one before Euden gets back!

So did you find your thrills?

Heh.

This... isn't quite what I was bargaining for.

Irfan

Thanks for helping us with the shopping!

It was so much fun!

Wait, is that Irfan?!

Pia

Lowen

What's going on? He would never perform any kind of work for free.

I must get to the bottom of this.

You're SUPER good at shopping!

Everything was cheap thanks to you!

I certainly am! Now then, about my payment...

We have what you asked for!

Heh heh. Just what I like to hear.

Because I NEVER work for free.

That cad! How could he do such a thing to CHILDREN?! ugh!

Now see here—

Here's your flower wreath!

My thanks.

And here's your candy!

You are a kinder man than I thought, Irfan.

You were watching me?! Blast!

Forget everything you saw!

Of course, she told everyone.

The prince and his friends have gained the assistance of former royal knight Lea.

Lea is the perfect woman—she's so strong and cool!

Lea

Orion

So I hear ya like to go around wipin' out fiends.

What kinda trainin' ya do for that?

I don't know if you'd call it training, but I have a strict daily routine.

Oh!

Do tell!

First, I get a nail and a straw doll.

I take them into a dark room...

Think of how much I hate fiends...

And let it out!

Let it out!

WHAM!

WHAM!

LET IT ALL OOOOUT!

I STOKE THE FIRES OF ANGER!

THEN UNLEASH THEM ON FOES IN BATTLE!

Anyhoo, that's why I never lose.

She's not cool—she's fiery and passionate!

Heavens! I had no idea!

Raaaaagh!

Just what have you been through...

Emma is a member of the cheer squad.

You can do this! You OWN that washing! Wooooo!

Hearing you cheer me on fills me with energy!

Emma

Thank you for the support. I'm finished now.

Next, go cheer... Actually, wait. Why don't you HELP with the fishing?

Sure thing!

I'm on it!

Thanieeeel! I've come to heeeelp!

How's it going?

I fear I've had a run of poor luck today.

Oh no!

Thaniel

Then lemme help out with a bit of motivational singing!

THANIEL, GO! THANIEL, GO! CATCH THOSE FISHIES LIKE A PRO!

Sorry, Cleo. We didn't catch a thing.

There, there.

You should have told her that fish flee from loud noises!

She was putting so much effort into it, I couldn't tell her to stop.

shock

Sorry...

That's damn cool!
I know, right?
What are you talking about?
Ha! You're just in time.

Check THIS out...
Hearken to my voice, drake of deepest emerald!
By the solemn pact that binds us...
RUMBLE...
Winds that blow around us! Ground beneath our feet! Reside within me!

SHAPESHIIIIIFT!
MIDGARDSOOOORMR!
ROOOOAR!

Yep! It's STILL damn cool!
Whooooa!
Now think of a cool thing I can say!
Heh. I'm surprised you're going along with this, Midgardsormr.

It is... not so bad.
Wait, is he actually ENJOYING this?!
You should use that same pizazz when summoning me, darling!
What?!

Suddenly, everyone is copying Luca's over-the-top shapeshifting method.

Wooo! Awesome!

All right, I'm next!

O maiden of a thousand lights...

She whose wings shine brighter than the sun...

Linus

Descend upon me now!

Radiant Valkyrie, Jeanne d'Arc!

Hee hee!

Radiant Valkyrie? Oh, I DO like that.

Oooooo! Ahhhhh!

BOOOOOM!

By the solemn pact that doth bind us... (etc.)

B-Brunhilda!

Aaaaah! That was SO cool, darling!

BOOOOOM!

O servant of darkness, born of the underworld's depths!

Come forth upon me now!

Curran

Gnarly Toestep!

Ngh!

.....

Uuurgh...

I saw that coming.

I ABSOLUTELY saw that coming.

If summons hail from ill truth, must We yet heed them?

Please don't try this in an actual battle.

Honestly...

Heinwald

As did I.

Nyarlathotep

Heeey, Prince. Wanna go have some fun?

Sorry, but I have to finish this laundry.

Can it wait until later?

O-oh...

Malora

Why is he immune to my charms when no one else is?

sigh

I can but blink and have any other man I want.

Might I confirm your plans for today, madam?

Edward

Oh, it's the Super Butler. Well, since you must know, I'm about to go on patrol duty.

We actually double-booked today's patrol schedule, so perhaps you would like another task?

Well then, why don't we go have tea together?!

I would prefer not to.

Eudeeeen...

Hey, Malora. I'm almost done here.

You're so sweet... It's such a relief...

Why are you crying?!

Huh??

To Dragalia Lost players...

Aaaand Dragalia Life readers...

Happy First Anniversary!

We couldn't have come this far without all of you!

Woo hoo!

Dude, easy on the ol' confetti!

I mean, not that I don't LIKE it...

Is it normal to throw pieces of paper about on celebratory occasions?

toss

toss

Midgardsormr

Yep! It looks pretty, plus it makes you feel happy!

I admit, it IS rather attractive.

Here, give it a try.

sniff sniff

Very well.

WHOOSH!

Am I mistaken, or is it raining confetti today?

Now THAT'S an idea I can get behind!

We hope you keep enjoying the game!

Euden's new outfit symbolizes his resolve to fight the Other.

Dude, that looks TIGHT!

You've grown so much...

clap clap clap

speechless

sniff

Somebody must be cuttin' onions in here...

I think you're all overreacting a bit.

Hee hee! They're like parents at a kid's first recital!

Er, can I at least relax my expression while I'm being painted?

No! You'll ruin my work!

R-right. Guess I'll try and hold this...

Fleur

Hey, guys! I brought some dragons to make the background look all rad.

You look AMAZING, darling!

Great idea! Fleur, you should totally paint them in the...

Mym

Midgardsormr

Moon Drake

D'aWW...

Oh geez.

Oops... Okay, new plan—all the dragons go back home!

What?!

You there! With the Eastern armor!

Agh! Your armor is blinding!

C-can I help you?

Taro

Golden Armorer Malka

The joints in your armor have grown loose.

Come; I shall tighten them for you.

My father gave me that armor. Please treat it with care.

But of course.

...How would you feel about a layer of gold sealant?

Uh, n-no thanks...

Could you make it a bit more sturdy, though?

Undoubtedly.

...If I plate it with gold.

Why is it always gold with you?!

I simply wish to see if it lends magic resistance to Eastern armor as well!

Try it on somebody else's armor then!

Delphi is from a tribe that serves the Alberian royal family.

My people are responsible for protecting the sacred shards.

Delphi

You also have a power that lets you manipulate barriers, right?

Seal things away?

Yes, I can use cages and the like to seal things away.

Now THAT sounds useful!

Can ya seal away this mountain'a garbage I forgot to take out?

← Ranzal

Ooo! I need a favor, too!

Can you seal away all the laundry I forgot to do? Because it smells TERRIBLE!

Luca

Man, sealing is so useful!

...Wait, what?

Impenetrable Cage

You two stay there and reflect on what you've done.

Cassandra was once a royal magician in the Kingdom of Alberia.

Did you truly serve King Aurelius before Prince Euden was born?

Because you appear so...

Young? Hee hee! That's my little secret.

Cassandra

I see. Er, and would I be correct in assuming His Highness was an adorable baby?

Goo goo ga!

Oooooh...

So that's what you're REALLY interested in!

N-nay, madam! I ask merely out of mild curiosity!

Of course. Maybe I should go and make a cup of tea...

Ooof! My back...

Goodness! That was so...

I pray you aren't about to say that I sound like an **old lady.**

O-of course not!

Reeeeally?

Oh, I'm just kidding with...

.....

Wait... What was I doing again?

You ARE an old lady!

A mysterious young man called Audric aids the prince.

Euden's mumbling in his sleep again!

Zethia... I couldn't save you...

Urgh...

He appears to be having another nightmare.

Audric

Leave this to me.

It's a book of my exploits, the Legends of Aure... Er, I mean, Audric.

Whatcha got there?

Legends of Audric

Reading to people allows them to sleep peacefully.

Once upon a time...

There lived a young man called Aur... Er, Audric.

That voice is BUTTER.

The prince is gonna sleep like a baby toni...

Oh maaaan...

But town after town was burned to ash by the Other.

Alas, many of Audric's friends gave their lives to protect him.

In the end, few remained.

Legends of Audric

Urrrrgh...

sniffle sob

Blast! His nightmare is worse than before.

But why?!

Because your story was CREEPY, ya creep!

Your life must have really sucked!

White Sparrow Corps Vice Captain Patia

I am ever supporting Captain Leif in ways both active and subtle.

How so?

Patia

For instance, the captain sometimes makes food for the soldiers.

Leif

Mmm. Not bad.

Blech!

His cooking is...not good.

When that happens, I eat the vile concoction myself and remake it from scratch.

I warmed it up for you, Captain!

Hmm. I don't remember it being this color.

What?!

I'M SO IN AWE OF YOU RIGHT NOW!

I couldn't do that...

Ha! It is nothing I can't handle!

Oh, there you two are.

I was hoping you might sample my new dish.

Urp...

Now, let us begin the first Dragon Conference!

TA-DAAAAH!

Yaaay!

Woo hoo!

Jeanne d'Arc

So what do you do at a "conference"?

I was hoping to discuss the future.

Aw, that's gonna take forever!

?

Moon Drake

Pele

No doubt we will get thirsty. I shall fetch us drinks.

Can I go get snacks?!

Certainly.

Perhaps I should acquire something as well...

This fruit Euden gave us is SO GOOD!

munch

munch

munch

Mmm!

Mmm!

This apple is exceptional.

Oh man, I'm stuffed!

But I kinda feel like we're forgetting something...

Zzz...

Aw, whatever. Nap time!

burp

Conference Concluded

Mym acquired an outfit that lets the wearer experience an imaginary world of their own desires.

I never get to monopolize him...

So grant me a world where it's just me and my darling at Halloween!

Mym

Imagination Land

Happy Halloween, Mym! Looks like it's just us tonight.

Which is JUST what I wanted!

Trick or treat!

Yes, here are the treats. Now let's get down to business!

Thanks, Mym.

Trick or treat!

You're only supposed to say that to someone once, darling.

Oh, I know, you're playing a trick on m—

Treat or treat!

Er, that's just trea—

Treat and treat!

Darling...

Treat! Treat!

munch

THIS ISN'T GOING WELL AT ALL!

munch

Treat! Treat!

This is NOT what I wanted!

Raaagh! I'm Lowlife Lowen, the naughtiest boy at Halloween!

Lowen

Er, Lowlife Lowen?

Elias

Yep! I'm gonna do lots of naughty things!

If you say so. In the meantime, do you want some candy?

Maritimus candy?! Ooo, thanks!

Whoa!

Wait, I'm being naughty! So... umm...

I-I'll break his ears off!

Does that really qualify as naughty?

You bet it does!

HNNNNNGGGGGH!

.....

.....

Okay, new plan...

I'm gonna bite into it WITHOUT licking it!

Wow. SO naughty.

Ow, my teef...

lick

The road to being a lowlife is long indeed.

Happy Halloween, Odetta!

Happy Halloween, Notte.

Odetta

Now trick or treat me some candy!

Heh.

Very well.

You may have some candy...IF you guess where on my person it is hidden.

Pop quiz, eh, hotshot? Well, step aside for Notte the Trivia Master!

Let's see... Where could it beeee...?

Mmm. You tell me.

Huh? I can't see it anywhe—

Oh!

She's stabbin' some macarons!

Well done! Please, take this.

Hee hee!

Ah, what a prank! This treat is false! ...But the REAL candy is here.

Really?!

I got punked!

I wanted a treat and got a trick!

Trick or treat!

Thanks! Here, have some can—

Maritimus

If you don't buy my candy, I'm gonna trick you!

THUNK

Now I'm being pressured into buying stuff?!

Maritimus Candy! Only Sold on Halloween!

Ha ha! Kidding! I just thought it was a good chance to advertise.

They're moving quite well.

Whew...

You really surprised me. But here, take your candy!

Hee hee!

Hmm? Wait a second...

What if his tricks are actually... nice?

Giant paw hug!

SQUEEEEZE!

I HAVE to try that.

That tickles!

Er, so HOW, exactly, would you trick me, Maritimus?

I'd turn into a snowball and chase you all night!

EEEEK!

Uh...

Yeah, I'd rather avoid that.

The prince just gave him candy in the end.

Lathna; the troubled girl.

Hey, Lathna. What are you up to today?

I'm waiting for Curran.

Lathna

Oh! There he is!

Curran! Curran!

Hey there, Lathna. How's tricks?

Curran

Does she want to play? I didn't know they were so close! Awww...

Soooo...

When are you gonna say something funny?!

Uhhh...

Hmm?

I don't do that all the time, you know!

I make it though plenty of days without wording over my trip... ***Damn it!***

Yaaay! You did it!

Not so much "playing" as "toying with"...

Hee hee!

Akasha had become popular around the castle through some... enigmatic means.

Akasha is the BEST!

Look at me! Look at meeeee!

Heh heh.

Akasha

What is the deal with you guys?

Since when do you even know her?

Are you serious?

?

She and I have been best friends for over two hundred years.

Curran

I have no idea what is happening here.

How did she DO this?

Ah! Good day to you both. Incidentally, Master Curran...

Heinwald

I gather you had quite a bit of fun on the town last night...

Heh heh.

Heh heh heh.

I hope it was enough to justify abandoning your duty to watch Lathna.

Dare I ask if you have made Master Heinwald aware of this?

You know, you really are my BEST FRIEND.

Wanna go for a drink? It's on me!

Come on! Let's go right now!

That's a more mundane method than I expected.

Curran, we need to talk.

So you HAVE been taking money from the innocent, eh?

I shall see your villainy repaid in full!

Huh?!

Waike

We have a thief in our ranks?!

Why do you stare at me so?

I have ironclad proof of your crimes!

Wait, it's XANDER?!

.....

Xander

Oh dear. I am caught. Ah ha ha.

Now you must die. Die, die, die.

Why is he talking so stiffly?

Hmm?

Ah. Greetings, Prince. We were just rehearsing the play we are putting on for the children.

Wait, this is a REHEARSAL?!

Yes, and I fear it is going most poorly.

Silence, vassal! This play cannot be anything BUT a success with me as the lead!

Er, yes...

Whew!

I suppose you do suit the role of evil noble, what with the **cape** and all.

That's what you choose to praise?!

Well done, knave! Continue your praising efforts!

Oh. He... doesn't mind.

Several Halidom residents are practicing a play for the children.

So I'm playin' the bunny detective? Nice!

Correct— and I thank you again for your efforts.

Waike

Linus

Chelsea is hopelessly in love with Luca.

Come talk with me, Luccy!

Chelsea

Oh! Who's your little friend?

Just a stray who's been comin' around lately.

He's so affectionate! That's SUPER cute.

Purrrrr...

I'm also affectionate! ...Just to you, though.

Say I'm cute, say I'm cute, say I'm cute...

Uh... thanks, I guess?

Ohmigosh, he THANKED me! Squeeeeal!

Tee hee!

You wanna give him a hug?

CHOMP

What the hell are you DOING?!

It taftef juft like you...

Ahh...

You are SERIOUSLY creeping me out here!

Yuya is training to become bigger and stronger.

Yo!

I roll with you now, Slick!

Good to meetcha.

Yuya

Your hairstyle's so cool!

It makes you look really strong.

Strong?!

Thanks, Slick! Nothin' makes a guy happier than a good word for his comb!

BANG!

I'm gonna keep workin' to get bigger!

Yuya worked endlessly to grow the comb (?) on his head.

Eventually...

997...

998...

999...

1,000!

Cock-a-doodle-doo!

Check it, Slick! I'm the big man I always dreamed of!

R-right... Big...

What in the world?!

Your sketch is beautiful!

That's kind of you to say...

But we both know it isn't true.

Budding Artist
Fleur

I feel your love for the subject of this piece just by looking at it.

Sure it is! Art is a reflection of the creator's soul.

Again, that is... kind of you.

He's just the most charming **little piggy** ever!

Er, that's Euden.

...Euden.

SUCH ARTISTRY!

Ooo! Something smells good!

I'm baking bread for the dragons.

Ezelith

You know? I've always wanted to try feeding them.

Lemme help!

They're not pets, you know.

But I suppose assistance WOULD be welcome.

I hope you're grateful for this!

Thanks, Ezelith!

The bread is ready.

You're the best, Ezelith!

You'll ensure they receive it, yes?

Hee hee!

DUN DUUUN!

DRAGON SIZED!

Muh?

Just carry it up there, if you would.

Dragon's Roost

And thank you!

MUH?!

Hey, there! You up for a board game?

I made it myself, so I'd like to ensure it's playable.

I'm sure it'll be fun if you made it.

Aurien

Rules are simple! Everyone plays as the king of a country, and makes their way to the goal.

The person who makes it to the goal with the most people in their country is the winner.

Go easy on me!

Norwin

Since this is your first time, why don't you go first?

All right. Let me juuust... Hah!

That's a three, which means... **two citizens exiled for serious crimes?** That's not good!

Looks like I'm up.

A couple fall from a cliff, and are never seen again.

Three people vanish without a trace. Their families are still looking for them.

After a major family conflict, four people move to different countries.

Umm...

Did you write all of these, Aurien?

Huh? Nah, that was Norwin.

Ta-daaah!

I worked hard to make them depressingly realistic!

I should have known...

An Author Who Can Only Write Bad Endings

Despite being 24, Amane looks like a child—and is often treated like one as a result.

Ugh! That Ranzal...

Only a kid goes to bed at nine.

See comic #22

I'm an adult—and I'll prove it by staying up late tonight!

Amane

To that end, I'll need your help.

I've always wanted to try staying up!

This sounds fun!

Elias

Lily

Rookie Insomniacs

What are we gonna do?!

Pillow fight!

Play cards?

Scary stories!

Hope

Maribell

An hour later...

Z

Z

Z

...they were all fast asleep.

Sleep IN your bed, Lowen!

Honestly...

Yer a kid, all right.

Told ya.

Louise

Lowen

Hey, I heard you're some big-cheese Paladyn now, yeah? Congrats!

Thank you, Luca.

So what happened to that fluffy ball you always wore?

I removed it. It seemed inappropriate, given my new station.

Symbol of your new resolve, eh? That's cool.

Noice!

I... wouldn't go quite that far.

Stop teasing!

Besides, it's not as if I NEED it with me.

Didn't you once tell me you needed it to stay relaxed?

Well, when I do this...

whoosh

whoosh

rub

rub

Uh...your hands are empty.

Wait! Stop! I swear I saw it just now!

thin air

rub

Right? Rilllight?

rub

Okay, don't act like you're so cool!

Jiang Ziya loves making people's lives easier with relics.

Relics can do some really amazing things!

Jiang Ziya

This is the Cloth of Reversal—it's a relic that flips things back to how they once were!

Pop it on something, and it turns back time!

Turns back time?!

Hildegarde

Then it can make you young again?!

WAIT!

If you use it on a human, the results can be—

Whoa!

Augh! I didn't know Ranzal was there!

POOF!

Er, that's turning back the clock a little TOO far.

It seems I'll have to give up.

What a shame...

I'm glad you understand.

Whew!

Goo goo! (Don't be gettin' all relieved!)

Ga ga! (Put me back the way I was!)

Durant leads the Cruor Hounds, a resistance group that fights the Empire.

Is it true you're called the Mad Dog of Valkaheim?

Got a problem with that?

Durant

Not at all! I just wondered if the name has anything to do with your wolf.

Oh, that? Nope. Not related.

Speaking of wolves, yours seems to be a little muddy.

MUDDY?!

What's the big idea, comin' back covered in filth?!

I'm gonna teach ya a lesson!

whimper

No! Don't hurt your wolf!

Oh, there's gonna be pain, all right...

'Cause this dirt ain't comin' off without a fight!

Ya gotta wash up after playin', dammit!

Ha ha! You really do love that wolf, huh?

Get yer head outta the clouds! How's it gonna look if the leader of the Cruor Hounds has a dirty wolf?!

What?!

It's not because I'm some animal-lovin' softie...

Ah, Rawn. Excellent.

Might you look after these pigeons for a bit?

tweet

?

tweet

Rawn

Jurota

Aoi left them in my care earlier.

tweet

But I have business that must be attended to.

Rawn look after birdies!

My thanks. I will return anon.

tweet

Hmm. Rawn bored of waiting.

tweet

Oh! Rawn know! Rawn play with birdies!

tweet

Ten minutes later...

My apologies for the wai—

WHOOSH!

Are we under attack?!

No, birdies!

WHOOSH!

...

WHOOSH!

That Jurota! He not prey!

Yo, our bad. No hard feelings, man. (*If pigeons could talk)

Tweet!

Wha...

Welcome back!

Somehow they've gone feral while I was away!

Aoi's two pigeons, Snow and Ashe, have returned to their feral instincts.

They ARE more feral! What the heck happened?!

Jurota

Rawn

Aoi

They seem a bit quicker, too...

WHOOSH!

WHOOSH!

Way more than a bit.

W-well I'm sure they'll calm down eventually.

The next day...

How are your birds, Aoi?

You guys came to see 'em, huh? Weeell...

THEY TURNED SOOOO CUTE!

Tuh-Weeeet!

I do not understand.

Well, I kinda convinced Zardin to look after them.

Aha ha ha!

After this, Jurota decided to give up thinking altogether.

Whaaaa?

Ah, what a lovely butterfly.

Malora was chosen to be the model for a new Saint Starfall outfit.

Oh my... You look even more beautiful than usual.

Vanessa

Hee hee! My thanks.

Malora

But you were ALREADY pretty as all get-out.

If you go into town like this, you might cause trouble with couples enjoying Dragonyule.

W-we can't let that happen!

Costume Designers

Don't worry, I've got a backup plan.

I figured this might happen, so...

Althemia

Annelie

Here's a **NEW Saint Starfall outfit!**

My, how marvelous! But do you truly think it can hide MY charms?

Yeah, she's never going to wear that.

Ta-daaah!

Wait, so you're okay with it?

Later...

YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL, MALORA!

MARRY ME, MALORA!

She is a force to be reckoned with...

That a sleigh on your back, Xainfried?

Indeed. Rex made it for me.

Sure did!

Xainfried

Rex

I'm off to deliver presents with these two.

Huh?

Wait, then shouldn't ya drag the sleigh behind you?

Perhaps.

Fydon and Felyx

But I wouldn't want anything to happen to them when I wasn't looking.

I would be hard-pressed to protect them if they were attacked.

Yeah, I guess they still are pretty young.

Precisely. And on that note, I bid you farewell.

Sure. Take ca—

WHAM!

whoosh

What the heck?

WHOOSH!

You tell fortunes, yeah?

Well, well. What an unusual visitor.

I certainly do, sir! How might I help you?

Verica

Yaten

I wanna know Euden's lucky chow for today.

Er, you mean a food that will bring him good fortune?

Is this a present, or...?

Well, never mind. Let me take a look.

Ah! I see. His lucky food for the day is **meat.**

Huh. What about tomorrow?

Tomorrow is...**grilled fish.**

Cool. What about the two days after-that?

You must really want to cook for the prince!

Nah. It's just my turn to plan the menu this week and I don't wanna.

You must pitch in, Yaten!

Wait, WHAT?!

Avoiding chores is NOT the purpose of divination!

Unbelievable!

I need five more days' worth.

Sounds like we gotta move out!

Waike! Lend us a hand!

Of course I will, uh...

Waike

Ranzup, was it?

RANZAL!

Ah. My apologies.

ouch.

This is the team for today. You all know each other, right?

Certainly! You are **Detective Bunny Ears!**

That ain't a name!

It's just a role I did in a play that one time!

Linus

Looks like Waike isn't good at remembering names and faces.

And that good man is Xanderp!

So close.

He ain't close at all!

Xander

Wait, wasn't he once **a thief that only targeted nobles?**

And didn't he attack me by mistake...?

Annelie and Cleo are out on a shopping trip.

What an adorable hair accessory!

Let me try it on.

Annelie

That ribbon is wonderful. But your usual ear accessory is already so fashionable.

Thank you.

Still, isn't it inconvenient to always have your ears hidden?

Not at all. If anything, it is an advantage.

Heeey!

Her usual getup

Come back quick! We harvested some GREAT apples!

twitch twitch

Aaapples...

Oh, I see! It lets you hide your twitching ears!

You REALLY like apples, huh?

Please don't look. It is ever so embarrassing.

Dragons enjoy all kinds of presents, even if they aren't edible.

Wooow! I can see loads of flowers!

They're so pretty!

so cuuute...

Say, I gave you and the other big dragons kaleidoscopes, too, but...

Mercury

It is too small for me to use, but I still appreciate its beauty—much as I treasure all gifts given in kindness.

Can you even use it?

For Admiring

The size of a gift doesn't matter.

So long as it is shiny, we dragons will love it!

Really? Well, I'm glad you appreciate things that aren't food—

WHAAA?!

Marishiten

Juggernaut

Y-yes, this certainly is...pretty. What a kind gift...

He was eating it!

Can you eat these pretty tubes?

No!

?

The Dragonyule cake is ready, everyone!

Whoa! It's huge!

Xainfried

Malora

CAAAAAKE!

Luccyyyy!

I will cut it into perfectly equal portions.

Math is my forte, after all.

Now, if I divide the cake's volume by the number of people in the Halidom...

Chelsea

Xiao Lei

This is everyone's slice.

IT'S SO THIN!

It's a candle! A feeble light in the wind! It ain't even triangular!

Well, there are a good number of people in this castle.

We have more cakes on the way!

Ah, excellent. Let me divide those as well.

Luccyyyy!

This ain't right.

Well, at least I can kinda squish 'em into a triangle now...

If you are going to complain, someone else can have your share.

Sorry! They're peeeerfect!

Laxi is an ancient combat android.

My duty is to fight.

I wish you could also find enjoyment in things that AREN'T fighting.

Laxi

Though...

Will you not give the order for battle?

She just keeps asking that...

Hey, I've got an idea!

Practice swings

Whoosh

whoosh

Let's play rock paper scissors!

Rock paper scissors?

Yeah! It's a kind of battle that doesn't use weapons.

There are lots of games like that.

Like Red Rover. Oh, or Simon Says!

Simon saaaays... turn left! Then right!

Good idea! If she learns about things that aren't fighting, she—

Left! Right! Left!

?

? Right! Left!

? Right!

KER-SPROIIING!

Lef—?!

LAXIIIIII!

Mitsuhide leads one of the Twelve Wyrmclans.

Bonnie

Hmm? You want me to describe myself? Weeell...

Mitsuhide

I love sleeping. Good night!

Zzzzz...

Honestly...

You must behave with more dignity, Lady Mitsuhide!

Heh. Looks like we have someone else who falls asleep instantly now.

Retainer Chitose

↑Personal pillow

The other one (Yaten)→

There's another me? Well, that will not do!

THAT is what bothers you?

What kind of person is this other me?

Well...

He's really lazy.

Urgh.

He's always sleeping.

Blech.

But when festivals are involved, he becomes very serious.

Oh!

What a relief!

In that case, we're totally different.

I'm not serious about ANYTHING!

You're weirdly happy about this.

Oh, you flatter me!

No one is flattering you!

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year!

Ahhh... It's so cozy under here.

Yes, truly...

It's well and good to be cozy, but don't slip into laziness.

Have you considered your resolutions for the coming year?

snoooore

Hmm...

Well...

A cool new look wouldn't be bad.

Or maybe..

ZZZZ

Wake up!

By the way, has anyone seen Notte?

?

She was feelin' chilly, so she popped under here.

So... hot...

She's turned into a pile of mush!

Is that her new look?!

AHHH!

Don't spend TOO much time under your kotatsu!

Nobunaga leads one of the Twelve Wyrmclans.

I'm the head of the Horse Clan, which means I've got a few more years off. BUUUUUT...

Nobunaga

I don't care about musty old rules like that—so I tagged along to give you some extra blessings!

As you can see, Nobunaga is quite... unconventional.

And what's so wrong with that?!

Conventions are BORING!

Got any other examples?

Hanabusa

Once, she said dancing on its own was " boring," so she made me wear a samba dancer's back piece.

Uhh...

Yowch...

Excellent!

Yer not her retainer, though. Couldn't ya just say no?

N-not to her...

Urgh... Just the memory of it is upsetting my stomach...

It was truly a sight to behold!

Listen... Ya do know it's hard to refuse someone more important than ya, right?

Hahaha!

Ya gotta cool it with these requests.

Ah, but I wore one as well!

That's peer pressure!

She danced so seriously, too...

This is some real trauma!

Chitose is Mitsuhide's attendant.

Hee hee! I'm the cutest boy in the land!

And I'm going to teach everyone here how to be cuter!

Chitose

Man, I am BEAT after that mission!

phew

I'm thirsty!

You all need to be more cute!

Haha!

gulp

Milk

Cover your mouth when you smile! Keep your teeth hidden!

Brush your hair to the side when eating or drinking!

You need to shorten your strides!

Uh... Okay...

Like this...?

Several days later...

YES! Look how cute you all are now!

Well done!

Guys, we've got fiends to deal with!

Keep your knees together!

Arms at your sides!

Keep brushing your hair up, that's it!

What HAPPENED to you guys?!

Please fight normally!

Hanabusa is a dance master from Hinomoto.

As a show of hospitality, I will give a short performance.

I can't wait!

Hanabusa

Owwww...

I briefly imagined failure, and... my stomach...

What's wrong?

Hanabusa REALLY doesn't handle pressure well.

Mitsuhide

And after we came all this way, too. How embarrassing...

Ugh...

If he screwed up, he'd shame all of Hinomoto!

You don't need to pile MORE pressure on him!

Help! There are fiends attacking!

Urgh...

RAAAAAHHH!

Those damn FIENDS!

YOU'LL PAY FOR INTERRUPTING MY DANCE!

The more stressed he is, the stronger he gets.

It makes our battles way easier!

He's great!

RAAAAHHH!

...But what about his dancing?

Chitose

Humans have such awesome food!

Sazanka

That particular dish is unique to Hinomoto.

It gladdens me to see you enjoying it.

slurp

Eleonora

What's this square brown thing?

That is deep-fried tofu.

I smell some fine udon.

It has set my stomach rumbling.

Ieyasu

I will have some ready shortly, Master!

Here you are!

BANG

WHA?!

That's so much food...

This is the Master Ieyasu Special!

!!

I want the Eleonora Special, please!

Forgive me, but special dishes are for Master Ieyasu alone.

Nooo!

B-but... CULTURAL EXCHANGE!!!

Come now, she can have some too.

Kirsty is a military general.

I have a lot to learn about leadership from you.

Your flattery is unnecessary.

Kirsty

I'm serious! Remember when we were planning how to defeat those fiends before?

Wait. There is a better formation.

If we station two archers here...

Hmm...

You worked so swiftly! It was a huge help.

You're also really quick at checking documents.

It's merely reading and stamping, in that order.

Believe me, you make a difference!

bang

bang

bang

bang

Joachim

She's fairly used to this kind of work.

Now, as for these documents... Ah, just the man I need!

Victor!

Victor

Slip

Smash

Gasp!

Rip

Keep quiet while I'm working, Joachim!

This stamp is faulty. It needs replacing.

Huh? But I've been talking this whole time...

Don't blame the stamp!

Joachim is Kirsty's subordinate.

Joachim.

Tea.

Kirsty

Yes, yes. Always so demanding...

I would be happy to handle the tea, if you'd like.

Joachim

Oh, it's fine. I'm used to making it for her.

If you insist.

Hahaha...

But if Joachim should ever be preoccupied, please don't hesitate to ask.

Got it.

Joachim. My shoulders.

Yes, ma'am...

Cleo. Tea.

Here you are.

Joachim. Food.

Okay!

Cleo ...

Cleo.

Te—

!!

I'll bring some right awa—

high pitched

His best Cleo impression

Stop! STOP!

Battling fiends day upon day is ever so exhausting.

Are you well, Elisanne?

Melsa

Should I help you to your room?

No, I will be fine. But thank you anyway.

Well, if you're certain. But please tell me if there is ever anything I can do.

twitch

AAAAAAANYTHING?

Er, well, anything within reas—

In thaaaaat case...

stare

Wait. Run this by me again?

Elisanne asked me to gather all the sylvans together. She is apparently very tired.

And that's related to this... how?

Renelle

She sure doesn't LOOK tired.

Ahhhooo

Bliiiss...

?

What is going on here?!

Ear Therapy

Hello, Ranzal.

You appear to be in good spirits.

Jupiter?! Why do you...

Lightwyrm Jupiter

...have a picture in front of your face?

Hm? I don't know what you mean. This is my true form.

tap tap

Perhaps I'm too handsome to process?

There's a tappin' sound whenever he talks...

tap tap tap tap tap tap

But what of the sparkling visage before you?

tap

Pay no mind to the tapping.

tap tap tap tap tap tap tap

You know I'm beautiful!

UGH! It's so hard to talk like this!

You broke your face!

You cut a very cool figure with that blade, Luca!

Wow...

Laxi

Have you always been proficient with blades?

Nope! But I've put in LOADS of practice!

Check this out.

Heh.

Incredible! You carved it into little bunnies!

I can only imagine what such a technique could mean in battle!

...Huh? That one's just for apples.

...Wait, what?

I haven't started learning combat stuff yet.

...Seriously?!

Ah, Albert!

Is it true you give special lightning massages?

See comic #74

They aren't really massages, per se. Why do you ask?

Albert

Raemond

My old back is giving me no end of trouble.

I was hoping a blast of lightning might put it to rights.

I'm sorry to hear that. Still, I'm afraid I don't do such things any more.

I feared as much.

Ah, what I wouldn't give to be young again!

Heh heh.

Don't lower yourself into the grave just yet.

You're a long way from retirement, and you know it.

The next day...

Fall, lightning!

ORAAAAOK!

Whoosh!

My chance!

What are you doing?!

Raemond

Blast. I didn't make it.

Are you mad?! You could have been killed!

This is because you refused to give me a massage!

HOW IS THIS MY FAULT?!

Bah!

FINALLY caught you!

I didn't take you for the type to play with cats.

Meooow!

Berserker

Vanessa

I'm not playing!

I just thought I could use this little furball to get Elisanne to fight me.

Heh heh heh

Meow!

She's still rejecting you, then.

Yeah... But that just makes me more determined!

Cats are pretty funny, huh?

See comic #43

This guy's just been chasing his tail for ages now!

!?

!?

Ha-ha-ha I love it!

He probably doesn't know it's his own tail. Say, Vanessa...

Do you mind them playing with your hair?

Meow!

Wha?!

Meow!

Oh, you got guts, huh?!

Stop! STOP, I SAY!

Meow!

Meow!

Meow!

What's with the apron?

Sarisse

Berserker

I felt compelled to help with the chores.

Hey, that's really nice of you! But have you considered maybe taking your armor off first?

Why even bother with an apron?

Hm. I shall bear that in mind for next time.

Now, is there anything I can help with?

Hmm... How about food prep?

It shall be done.

Wow!

Look at you go! Cooking is always a battle against time, but it's no match for you!

A battle? Hah... Hahaha...

WAAAAHAHAHA!

BAM

BAM

BAM

THERE IS NOTHING SO BRACING AS A BLADE IN HAND!

Battle Maniac Mode

Weren't you meant to be helpin' with the cookin'?

bam

bam

It would seem I am too frightening...

Even when cooking?!

We are gathered here today to decide on our uniforms for Team Justice!

I would like the input of each member—

Hold on a second, I never signed up for any "Team Justice"!

WAIT!

Linus

Defender of Justice Karl

I enrolled you myself. And participation is mandatory!

Too close!

Those three are just havin' a picnic!

Thaniel↑

Berserker↑

Our goal is to achieve together what we can't alone!

Dude, are you even listening?

Uniform ideas! Now!

Ooo, I wanna draw too!

?

?

Maribelle

I think it would be best to keep our faces concealed.

We want to look strong, too.

Yes, we should show our strength AND our kindness.

Ideally we would each wear different colors. And we want to be able to move freely...

scribble

scribble

scribble

scribble

I want ribbons!

There!

LOVE

Ta-daaah!

What the hell is THIS?!

What is the nature of hunting?

Life

It is to end one life in the aid of another.

Sarisse

In our village, we were taught to only take what we needed from nature.

People would always say...

To hunt too much brings death.

So that's why we make sure not to waste anything, ever.

What I'm trying to say is...

Please!

I NEED EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THESE STRAWBERRIES! I promise!

Strawberry Picking

Sylas

Pick as many as you like. You don't have to give an explanation.

WHAAAT?!

So I can go back and get more?!

As long as you eat them all, I don't see why not.

Tee hee!

Strawberry Pickers

Xania

Aeleen

YAAAY! Thank you!

Excellent! My new pyroblossoms are complete!

I must try them at once.

Pyroblossom Artisan Su Fang

BANG!

POW!

BOOM!

crackle crackle

Well then! I think that worked out quite well.

And yet, there is always room for improvement.

Su Fang!

Oh! Hello, Cleo.

What do you think of my new pyroblossoms?

Su Fang, I beg of you, stop this experiment at once!

Oh, I'm sorry! Are they too noisy?

Er, not exactly...

But other residents are using the noise to drown out the explosions of their own failed experiments!

HOPING THAT WILL PREVENT ME FROM SHOUTING AT THEM!!

oopsie.

BOOM!

Oh nooo!

Sinoa and Kleimann tried to use pyroblossoms to cover the explosions of their own experiments.

Stop trying to find clever ways to drown out your explosions—and then stop making explosions altogether!

But—

NO BUTS!

Kleimann

Sinoa

I'm truly sorry, but accidental explosions are part and parcel of science.

We're not doing it on purpose, so can't you just... let it go?

NO, I CANNOT LET IT GO!

What happens when a room is rebuilt with new materials?

If no original materials remain, is it still the same room? I must know!

Wheee hee hee hee ha ha hoo!

Stop attempting to justify wanton destruction as philosophy!

You ARE aware poor Rex will have to repair everything you destroy, yes?

Just pleased to be of service, ma'am.

See how humble he is? I want you to reflect on all the trouble you've caused him!

Rex

\\wow!//

Thank you for all you do, Rex. I hope we can rely on you in the future.

'Course, ma'am. Happy to help.

That is NOT what I wanted you to reflect on!

Thanks for tagging along for Valentine's shopping!

With your help, I found the perfect gift for Euden! So here's a little something for you.

Well, all I did was look at things, but... thank you.

Perhaps I should find a present for someone who matters to me as well.

Cibella

Philia

Oh, you absoLUTELY should!

We'll look together! What did you have in mind?

Well...

How about candy? Ooo, or clothes! Or maybe just some daily essentials?

Romance ahoy!

Umm...

How about this?

A dumbbell!

Though she might prefer some different exercise equipment...

...Dare I ask who you're buying for?

Armsmaster Celliera, of course! She's been helping me train of late.

I'm sure she already has a few of these.

Right...

Philia was struck by an epiphany.

This WAS a romance! ...Of sorts. So she should give it her all! YEAH!

In that case, exercise goods are definitely the way to go!

Really?

Totally! She's not just saying that so she feels like she's helping! No ma'am!

What's that ya got there? A flower?

Yeah. It's a paper rose.

I made it using origami. It's a Hinomotoan tradition.

You heard of it?

Addis

No way! So this is just one piece of paper?

Amazing!

Yeah, that's just a simple one.

I wanna do it too! Teach me, teach me!

Well, first you fold the paper like so.

Okay!

I smell human culture!

What're you up to? We want in!

Eleonora

Laranoa

I did it!

This is tough...

What are you all doing?

Lowen

Goodness. Why did you make so many?

I didn't.

I taught the others how to make 'em, and they gave 'em to me afterwards as thanks.

What a lovely Valentine's gift! Hee hee.

Sazanka

Look! They're done!

I made these cupcakes to thank my friends!

Melody

The frosting flowers are a nice touch.

Hehe! Thanks!

How come there are two different sizes?

The big ones are for the people who've REALLY helped me since I got here!

Vida

And everyone else gets three of the small ones!

Gotcha. Everyone gets the same amount, it's just the presentation that's different.

Exactly!

So, who's getting a big one?

Well, obviously there's Euden.

And you two, of course.

Heh. Thank you.

Then Edward, because he's taught me so much.

And Aurien, for helping me when I was hurt, and Hildegarde, and Hope, and Verica, and Estelle, and Thaniel, and Lowen...

...Is it really okay for us to just eat all the big ones?

It's fine... You ARE special, so... I'll just give small ones to everyone else...

munch munch

It must be hard to be indebted to so many people.

Waaah!

Silke is so cool...

Silke

Gloom Drake

Cool? Not cute?

You know those blue flames around her feet? So cool!

?

Hikage

Oh, I get you now!

I wanna be cool like that...

It looks so great...

sigh

Really?

Then let me help you!

ROAR!

crackle crackle

Never fly too close to the sun, Prince...

Er, I'll be careful.

Sorry!

Promise... me...

This here's Rolf. He's my partner.

Do you think he could make friends with your doggies?

Dunno. You the kind of weirdo that names your wolves?

Laranoa

Rolf

Durant

Wait, you DON'T?

Wolves are wolves. Why bother?

They ain't got names in the wild.

But doesn't that make it hard to talk to them?

I mean, at least call them, like, **Spot** and **Rover** or something!

THE HELL?!

Spot

Rover

Don't go givin' names to other people's wolves!

Buuuut...

I TOLD YA, THESE GUYS DON'T—

WOOF!

...need... names...?

Look how happy they are!

Name?!

Name?!

We're done with this conversation!

Valerio is a three-star chef.

So I hear you agreed to make dinner tonight.

That's right.

Valerio

What did you decide to mak—

HOLY COW!

DUN DUN DUUUUUUN!

I didn't know today was a special occasion!

Whaaa?!

One moment, Valerio!

I asked you not to make anything luxurious because we have so many people to feed.

Yes, I am aware.

IT ALL LOOKS SO GOOD!

But there were two others in the kitchen that were... encouraging me.

A pro would never give less than 100 percent, yeah?

I'm looking forward to seeing how you fare on the culinary battlefield.

Vice and Joe

peel

peel

The troublemakers from comic #148

Before I knew it, I was giving it my all.

Erk...

Don't "before I knew it" me! What if people start expecting this level of quality EVERY day?!

Aaargh!

They ended up inventing a holiday called "The Feast of the Seven Gluttons."

Pipple resembles a sentient vegetable.

So is that thing actually a vegetable or something?

Pipple!

Pipple

Indeed—but one who can walk and talk.

Valerio

You say that like it's normal.

Anyway, what'd you need help with?

Might you ladle this soup into bowls for everyone?

Yeah, sure thing.

But it ain't...

AAAAAAAAAAAH!

DUN DUUUN!

gurgle

PIPPLE!

Please calm down.

It's DROWNING, man!

sploosh

Pii?

Wait, it's NOT drowning?!

It's fine. Pipple comes here often to bathe in the pot.

He gives the soup what I call "the fifth flavor."

Pipple pip!

STAY OUT OF MY SOUP, MAN!

Mitsuba is a Hinomotoan chef.

I'm hungry, but dinner isn't for hoooooours!

Well, that isn't good!

Mitsuba

What YOU need is an onigiri!

Here you go.

Ooo! Thanks!

Heeey! Got another one'a those for yer buddy Ranzal?

Sure.

Thanks! Uh...ya got any more?

You're gonna ruin your dinner, ya dope!

No way! I NEVER get full!

Really? In that case, have all you want!

Whaaaa...

HOLY CRAP!

How'd you even get that many IN there?!

Do you need more?

Think I'm good, thanks!

Serena is training hard to become less gullible.

WHAM!

You are the only person I know who could hold such a sign, yet look so cheerful.

Try To Deceive Me!

Vixel

Serena

I'm getting better, but I still need more training.

So c'mon, Vixel! Do what the sign says!

Actually, I just came here to tell you something.

Oh yeah? What?

Hmm...

Well, we were just slicing up a cake for everyone...

But then we realized we didn't have a piece for you.

WHAT?!

Apologies, but I fear this last piece is mine.

NOOOO! THAT'S MY CAKE!

CAAAAAAAKE!

Ah!

I say, you're right! This IS your slice of cake!

You really ARE getting better at this.

Huh? Wait. So this is... Waaaait...

Er, yes. See, I was lying to you earlier, so this is actually...your...

Heavens, she doesn't get this at all.

Whaaaaaa...?

Oh, Rodrigo...♥

sigh How might I get closer to Cleo?

All I can think to do is give her presents...

Are ya kiddin' me?

Hopelessly In Love

Wait, hang on. Is that fur ya got there?

High-quality fur from an exceedingly rare fiend, in fact!

Fiend fur? Really?

Stop right there!

Hmm?

Got you!

MROWR!!

Silly kitty! You know not to run about outside when you're injured.

Honestly...

We can play inside as soon as I change your bandage.

Meooooow...

!!!

My path is clear...

Now to grievously injure myself!

That ain't gonna work at all!

Tobias is a Paladyn from the Church's perditionist faction.

We perditionists will never see eye to eye with the conservatives.

That is not so!

Tobias

The Ilian Church is split into two conflicting factions that disagree over ideology.

You must learn to relax from time to time, Tobias.

Perhaps we might better understand one another if we told some jokes.

You can do this, Elly!

Juliette

Please leave.

Do not be like that, Tobias!

Ba-dum!

Oh my!

For it will not do if you are... TOO BIASED!

.....

.....?

Curse you perditionists and your lack of humor!

It took great wit and creativity to make a pun on your name like that!

How dare you!

Perhaps I am merely too biased to appreciate it.

Oh, just let it go...

I'll train as hard as I can as a Templar apprentice!

Hope

I don't want to abandon being a knight OR a priest, so I'm going to be both!

How very YOU of you. I would ordinarily worry about such a scheme, but you are in fine hands with Tobias.

I shall do my best.

All this hard work will be to my benefit one day!

Hope's New Master Tobias

Even if my muscles are so sore it's hard to walk...

Ha haaaa...

Then we must keep focusing on the basics.

I have no doubt you shall continue working ha—

wobble

wobble

Er, Hope? You are wearing two different shoes.

DUN-DUUUUUN!

Whoa! I'm wearing one of my old ones! I must've been half-asleep...

Old

New

Saaay, I bet this is Ilia's way of saying "You do you, buddy! Have two jobs! Just go for it!"

Way cool!

Ilia

It all makes sense now!

Is THAT how you imagine Ilia to be?!

For a priest, you lack all concept of how the Goddess operates!

For some reason, only Euden is able to see Fafnir Roy III.

Faf foo!

Hey, Euden. So I hear you're looking for a gift?

Fafnir Roy III

Gold Fafnir

I am, actually. Do you have any good ideas?

How about rupies?

Why does everyone keep suggesting that?

*See comic #80

So rupies are no good, eh?

Hmm... Well, how about a special good luck charm?

Huh...

It's quite the rare item!

But where would I find something like that?

ACK!

Ta-daaah!

Molted Fafnir Skin

You just pop this in your wallet, and you'll have good luck all year round.

Oh, wait...

You're the only one who'll be able to see THIS, too...

Do YOU want it, maybe?

So amazing! I'll treasure it always!

Faf!

Euden gladly accepted the thoughtful present.

I will give this to Cleo and speak with her!

But first, I must envision just how it will play out...

Right!

Hopelessly In Love

What pretty flowers. Are they a present for someone?

!!!

C-C-C-C...

Blast, what should I do?! I'm not ready yet!

Say! I was just looking for flowers like that.

?!

Might you tell me where you found—

Sylas

H-here! You asked me to get these, remember?!

Er, I don't recall—

Right then! Back to the lab!

It's nice that you're helping Sylas. Good luck with your research!

My... thanks...!

Boo hoo hoo...

sniff sniff

Er... You're making me feel guilty for using these. Should I give them ba—

She said it was nice that I helped you, SO YOU BETTER USE THEM!

Goodness, but you're stubborn...

Euden and the gang are helping Mikoto look for his feline friend, Mineuchi.

No luck today either.

Wherever he is, I am certain he is safe.

Mikoto

You're handling this very well.

I figured you'd be a wreck, but you seem fine.

I would not be so sure...

What's that?!

MINEUCHI?!

BLARGH!

What the hell are you DOING, man?!

My apologies. I was mistak—

Hmm?! Wait! I know that fluffiness!

MINEUCHI!

AAAAH!

Oh, Mineuchi... You've grown so big...

Hee hee! I'm not Mineuchi!

Lately, he's mistaking anything fluffy for his cat.

I take back everything I just said!

Maritimus

We are gathered here to discuss a serious problem.

One that concerns all who live in the Halidom.

Witness #1

Sometimes I feel like I'm being watched. Maybe even followed.

It's really scary!

Melsa

Witness #2

It's happening so often, my hair's fallin' out from the stress!

I don't like people touchin' my ears! No sir, I don't like it.

Witness #3

It is greatly disturbing. This must end.

Someone is going about collecting my shed hair.

Sylas

You have now heard all the testimony.

What have you to say for yourselves?

Cuddle cuddle...

Just goes ahead and pets

Can't stop staring out of desire to pet

AUUUGH! I'M SO SORRY!

Handmade

Elias

Mikoto

Yo, Elisanne—

Alex

Do not address her from behind, cur!

?!

But that's how I always do it!

Wait, stop!

Alex? You are not to attack our friends.

They are very important to His Highness. Do you understand?

Very well.

The next day...

Goodness! This curry is HOT!

so spice...

SLICE

YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS OUTRAGE, DASTARD!

Alex? You are not to attack the curry.

Curry is not our enemy. Do you understand?

But...

NO BUTS!

sulk

Hehe...

Power from a dragon has been artificially infused into Bellina's right arm.

Please don't mistake me for THAT miserable failure...

My right arm BURNS for battle!

Bellina

Since I can use my power without shapeshifting, that makes me the strongest... Hmm?

All right, here I go!

Yay!

Ha ha!

Do it! Yaaay!

By the solemn pact that binds us...

Hearken to my voice, drake of deepest emerald! Winds that blow around us! Ground beneath our feet! Reside within me!

SHAPESHIIIIIFT! MIDGARDSOOOORMR!

!!!

FOOOOOOOM!

Shapeshift incantations are so much fun!

...Muh?

Ha ha!

Yaaaay!

I want to try!

Me too!

What are they DOING?!

twitch

twitch

Such arrogance!

* See comics #152 and #153

O obsidian flames sealed in my right arm...

FOOOOOM!

My weapon's invisibility is proof of its strength! BEHOLD THE POWER OF A DRAGON!

Whoa! That's so cool!

And so, the competition to come up with the coolest incantation intensified...

Aldred was a cruel victim of artificial-shapeshifting experiments.

This is the result of the Syndicate forcibly fusing me with a dragon.

Aldred

And I'm gonna make 'em PAY for—

Ah!

What is it, dude?! Are we under attack?!

scritch scratch

scritch scratch

Uh... dude?

No, we're fine. This tree just looked perfect for sharpening my claws.

If I don't do this regularly, they get really long.

Hmm...

scritch scratch scritch scratch

Are you serious? I was fused with a DRAGON, not a cat!

swishy swishy

I'm not doing this because I want to!

I'm doing it for YOU!

Hey! Are you even listening to me?!

swishy swishy

Grace is a widow who longs to be reunited with her deceased husband.

Please... help me.

What? No!

Aldred

I wish to be with my beloved once more.

Oh...

Grace

WHOOMP!

AAAH!

Help me.

Again?!

SPLOOSH!

Help me.

SLAM!

Creeeeak...

Help me.

I thought you would change your mind if I kept asking.

sigh

Perhaps I was mistaken.

How long have you been hiding in this barrel?

That is NOT how this kind of thing works!

This is such a beautiful season. There are so many flowers!

You really do love flowers, don't you?

Oh, absolutely. I never tire of them.

Oh my.

Konohana Sakuya

Though it makes me sad to think they will eventually wither and die.

However, that truth somehow makes them all the more beautiful.

I think we can do something about that...

Hey, Freyja! You can make flowers bloom from dead branches, right?

Freyja

I certainly can.

Ah! I can see why you are called the dragon of harvests!

Do you wish me to make them bloom all year round?

Oh, that won't be necessary.

Wait, you DON'T want that?

No. But I DO have one other request...

Holy wow! The garden's full of flowers!

So pretty!

Is this really all you wanted?

Oh yes. I am completely satisfied.

Sigh...

Strange. It's not often I see His Highness sigh.

Second Prince Phares

He looks to have something on his mind.

Maybe he's having stomach pains?

Don't be daft! It's clearly related to that pot he's holding.

Whatever it is, I doubt us commoners could understand it.

True. I mean, we're talking about someone who once cooked meat on armor.

whisper whisper

Maybe he was raising a plant that died. Still, to be so serious...

Perhaps it's not an ordinary plant. Could it be a medicinal herb? Poison? A new species of flower?

Hmm...

?

I knew it...

This seems like serious business.

Best to leave him be.

Sliigh...

I really should have gone for the pot with a cat on it.

This one is just so boring!

Turns out it wasn't serious business at all.

Lazry is a blacksmith.

The blacksmith lasses did me a true kindness, so they did.

Now it's time for me to be returnin' the favor.

Lazry leaves no debt unpaid!

Lazry

Ramona

I hear you're just as capable as the three blacksmith sisters.

In that case, you should make us some weapons.

Forge 'em so strong that the Empire won't stand a chance against us!

Aye, I could do.

Done.

That was fast!

BRUUUUM

Wait, what IS it?

That looks... um... dangerous enough, but I'm not sure how practical it is.

brum brum brum brum...

Ach, is that so? Then try this.

Dyrenell

doooom

Okay, that's DEFINITELY not a weapon—although it sure does have a murder-y vibe.

doom doom

DOOM!

I've me own debt owed to the Empire, so I do.

...And I leave no debt unpaid.

From that day forth, Euden and Luca made very sure to stay on Lazry's good side...

Gauld is a rokkan of incredible strength.

I feel most comfortable in dark, gloomy places.

Gauld

Hey, me too!

Ha HA! Your king Xander shares the same sentiment!

Is that so?

Gloom Drake

Xander

A little gloominess can oft be a comforting thing.

I'd not expected to find a kindred spirit here.

Huh!

I think everyone longs to experience a gloomy place at least once.

You just can't beat...

The inside of a vase!

A mine shaft!

A dog house!

*See comic #8

I'll never forget the time we spent together.

Their interests proved too diverse to continue the discussion.

Nor shall I.

Student of Magic
Nicolas

Mana Observer
Sophie

Might I have a moment, Sophie?

Certainly. What do you need?

I was hoping we could continue our discussion on mana disturbances from the other day.

I would be glad to!

This room should be perfect for our needs.

scribble

You really think so?

Yes. The experiment being conducted within has the area's mana in a state of disarray, so...

W-wait, don't get too close!

Huh? Why?

KA-BOOOOOM!

Caw! Caw!

Well, poo. I did it again.

Urgh...

Aspen Balm!

As you see, Sinoa's experiments make it very easy to observe unbalanced mana.

Yes, but I'd prefer to study something a bit more... safe.

Sinoa

Hmm? What's Euden doing with the boss?

I made this little stuffed toy on my skirt.

Really? That's amazing!

Fritz

Annelie

You did a fantastic job.

Do you want to touch it?

Well, if you're sure...

Hee hee!

Huh?!

Keep your hands to yourself, dog!

You'll not get past me, scoundrel!

Fritz Barrier

WHOOSH!

ACK!

WHAM!

I'm sorry, Fritz!

I was only trying to touch the dragon!

Well, that's one dream you can just forget about.

If you must touch something soft, touch these instead.

pet

pet

...Uh, dude? What are you doing?

Dragon...

pet

pet

I don't know...

Why do you look so uncomfortable, Alex?

Oh! Elisanne, I... Umm...

Alex

Er, I just...

I am struggling to muster my courage.

Hmm. This is not like you at all.

Courage...?

Ah!

Hee hee!

I think I understand now.

You wish to join in with them, yes?

Well, I am certain they wouldn't mind.

You... you really think so?

I know so. Now go on!

Well, if you're sure...

I am ever so proud of you for trying to fit in.

O-okay, here I go...

I'm going to tell them I want meat instead of fish tonight!

You can do this!

In the end, it was just a menu request.

whoosh

This is a strange place to be staring off into the distance.

Hawk

Louise

I'm waiting for my duskhawk to return to me.

That's your birdie, right? Er, is he going to be okay? The wind's pretty strong today.

This is a simple training exercise.

whoosh

Fear not—all will be well. This, too, is part of his training.

Whoosh

See? Here he comes.

He—

WHOOOOSH!

Er, yes. He must have been buffeted by the wind.

?

...Wait, why are there two of me?

Oh my gosh! His spirit left his body!

There is no end to people trying to get hit by Albert's lightning for its massage properties.

Lightning, fall!

This is glorious for back pain! Whee hee hee hee ha ha hoo!

HEY!

Kleimann

My attacks never hit fiends anymore!

This is getting absurd.

Well, so be it. If this is what it takes...

Albert

Form a line! I'll give you all the massages you want!

Just PLEASE stop interrupting when I'm trying to fight!

Come quick! Albert's opening a massage parlor!

WHOA!

I am not!

Lightning, fall!

Hell yeah! I feel ten kinds'a better!

These massages are truly magical!

We're next! We're next!

BZZZZT!

Curran

I can't wait to try—

fizzle...

Paralysis Res +100%

Heinwald

Damn this ability for spoiling my fun!

Paralysis Res Ability

Grrr...

No, don't destroy your ability! We need it!

I feel so sad.

What's wrong?

Julietta

This axe is fine, but I want a cute weapon!

I don't care if it IS a family heirloom...

Something like...this!

A cute weapon is quite the tall order. It IS a weapon, after all.

Oh, we can totally do that.

Me and my sisters can make ANY weapon adorable!

WHAM! WHAM!

Really?!

In that case, I desire a cute weapon as well!

Leave it to me!

Ramona

Urrrrgh...

Huuurrrggh...

My masterpiece is complete!

Whaaaaa...?

BEHOLD!

Look at the lovely colors! The cute shape and adorable design!

I've outdone myself!

You're next, Elisanne!

Er, I believe I have changed my mind, thank you.

Your dragons have levels just like your adventurers.

Feedin' fruit to dragons makes 'em stronger!

And the riper the fruit, the more EXP they get.

Normal	Ripe	Succulent
Small EXP Gain	Medium EXP Gain	Large EXP Gain

Y'know, there's something that's been bugging me...

I'm getting stronger!

LEVEL UP!

Is this succulent dragonfruit maybe a bit TOO ripe?

Whaaa...?!

gulp

DUN DUN DUUUUN!

I mean, they say this stuff's out of date as soon as buds start growing on it.

Buds? This one's got FLOWERS!

Ooo! Succulent dragonfruit!

Gimme!

Is it really edible?

Homura

Look at the pretty flowers!

EXP Increased

These sharp bits make 'em look strong. It gets me fired up!

Guess that's one way to look at it...?

Ifrit

Verica

I have heard many positive things about your scrying abilities, Verica.

My thanks.

Would the two of you like me to work my art? Perhaps look into your romantic fortunes?

R-ROMANTIC?!

Of course. For instance, I could learn who your future husbands will be.

H-HUSBANDS?!

I'm almost scared to find out.

And yet, my curiosity is getting the best of me...

Then let us begin! Hmm, yes... Your husbands will be...

Wait! I must be in the correct frame of mind!

Ah, the answer is coming into view. But whoever shall it be?

Orion

Who dares speak about romance without inviting me, mmm?

Kindly stop causing yourself to be reflected in my crystal ball!

Wait! Come back!

Don't come looking for us...

Yurius is an enigmatic researcher.

My heart thirsts for new knowledge and...

Hmm?

Good sir, I beg it of you!

Yurius

Lightning massages are closed for business!

* See comics #74, #201, and #236

Please, just one!

Hmm, I see.

Still, why does he not simply give the man his requested massage?

Hmph.

Albert

Raemond

You there! Yurius! You hail from the same kingdom as Albert, yes?

Surely he will listen if you ask this of him!

Heh.

I doubt such things can change his mind, but I will try.

Fine, I'll do it— but you have to help!

Ah, excellent!

You can deal with taking reservations and... all that.

...Wait, reservations?

Th-then this means...

Lightning massages are BACK!

Heavens, what a mob!

We're closed, I tell you! CLOSED!

Forte is always looking for strong foes.

To the colosseum!

How about some gem-grilled meat before your match?

* See comic #24

Forte

Thanks for comin'! How ya want yer meat cooked?

Hot'n fresh!

meat

GemGrill

Rare and bloody, sir!

My meat must burst with wild energy!

Uh, okay?

Navood

Stop! Do not overcook it!

Ack!

But we haven't even started yet.

Truly? It looks well enough done to me.

munch

munch

Ah, but that is fine. I feel stronger already!

And yet, I cannot take on a foe who has not supped on the same.

Pray distribute the rest of this meat to the other contestants. I shall foot the bill.

Ya want all them folks to eat uncooked meat?

That is correct!

munch

munch

gulp

meat

meat

GemGrill

Forte was quickly banned from the food stall.

There are so many people here in the Halidom now.

Yep— and you couldn't ask for a stronger, more dependable bunch!

Or a more fitting group to take on the Empire.

Is everyone, like, ready for today's concert? Then make some noiiiiiise!

Go Siren! Go Siren!

We'll also be performing!

Siren

Lucretia

Time to get this show on the road!

It's gonna be one to remember!

Fritz

Ligor

Annelie

It's festival time!

BOOM! BOOM!

Natalie

Yaten

Uh, has everyone always been this... unique?

Yeah, probably— but I stand by the strong and dependable part!

I can't take any more of Dyrenell's tyranny!

Let's go to the Mistholt castle that takes in refugees.

Refugees from the Empire

I hear it's ruled by a kind prince who's really been taking it to the Empire.

If so, he must be a wise and dignified ruler blessed with wonderful companions!

Look! There's the castle!

Excuse me, but we're fleeing the Empire and came here after hearing... ***OKAY, WHAT IS HAPPENING?!***

BOOM! BOOM!

Everyone is having a delightful time.

Natalie

It's all very strange.

Watch me sing!

These are the people taking on the Empire?!

Let's dance!

Luther

Wooooo!

Su Fang

Siren

Maybe the prince wants his enemies to lower their guard? Or perhaps he's just trying to raise morale?

Hey there! Are you from the Empire?

I know you've been through a lot, but everything's going to be okay!

Want a candy apple?

The "wise and dignified prince" is just partying?!

Soon, the refugees found themselves filled with a different sort of unease...

Berserker and Hope are on patrol for the evening.

You're troubled by how you keep scaring kids on your night patrols, right?

If so, I think I have a solution!

Hope

Berserker

Tell me!

Tah-daaah! It's Operation Fluffy Patrol!

So fluffy!

...You cannot be serious.

I made it for you.

See?! The kids are gonna love it!

I think it's more likely to disturb them. Also, why are these shoulders so tall?

Aw, stop worrying. Everyone loves fluffy things!

Wh-who's that?!

EEEEEEK!

Elias

Lowen

It's me, Hope! And you should both be in bed.

You scared us—we couldn't hear your footsteps at all!

They're actually talking to us. Astounding!

B-b-b-but...

Why are you dressed like that?

Is the four-eyed thing behind you a g-g-ghost?!

Four-Eyed Thing

That's no ghost! It's Berserker!

La la laaa...

Hey there, Orsem. You seem to be in high spirits.

Orsem

That's 'cause sooomeone took a new interest in skating!

In fact, they're practicing right now! You should come look!

Huh.

Who could it be? Annelie, maybe? Or Fritz?

I could see Luther gettin' into that kinda thing.

Perfect wind direction! Perfect angle! Retreat route secured!

HA HA! 50 miles per hour! My fastest speed yet!

WHOOSH!!!

Alain

Another successful retreat!

I did iiit!

A new record! Wooo!

In the end, they stayed quiet for the sake of Orsem's newfound joy.

Wait, THAT'S the new skater? He's just usin' it to run away!

Midgardsormr has revealed his true power.

ROOOOAR!

Permit me to judge whether or not you are worthy of my additional power...

My true form will decide!

High Midgardsormr

The battle did not go well.

Mikoto

How can he be so strong?!

I...lost? I NEVER LOSE!

We never stood a chance...

Hold on a second, bub!

Ezelith

Vanessa

If you have THAT much power, why aren't you using it to help us?!

I share only as much power as I deem worthy of my pactbearer.

Ugh! You're so stubborn!

Wait, so you've been holding back this whole time?!

Sarisse

Wha...?!

So all the times the Empire nearly took our heads, you weren't even tryin'?

Man...

Erm...

I thought us allies and friends. I truly did.

.....

...V-very well.

I will lend you my full strength...

Whenever I deem you worthy of it, which is NOT now!

ROAAAA

Guess we can scrap the whole "guilt trip" idea.

Maybe we can bribe him with food instead?

Now he's even STRONGER!

JUST! GET! STRONGER!

Leif has joined us at last!

The White Sparrow Corps are here, Your Highness!

We shall fight at your side!

Leif

Ah, but it is good to have their strength.

Yes, and they've also been helping around the Halidom.

Cleaning

Washing

I'm very grateful.

Your Highness, we've an emergency! Come quickly!

Oh no!

What happened?!

Captain Leif has... Just come at once!

Patia

AAARRRGH!

That sounded like Luca!

Blast! Are we too late?!

I took the liberty of preparing a healthy meal for everyone.

It will surely lift your spirits!

LUCAAAAAA!

His "healthy meals" are legendary for all the wrong reasons...

We must bar him from the kitchen.

Good morning!

Morning!

Wait, what's that on your horns?

Xuan Zang

Oh! That's a towel.

Here, let me get that.

I didn't have anywhere to put it, so I hung it on my horns and forgot all about it.

My thanks.

The next day...

Now you have a pair of glasses on your horns. Are they a spare?

THAT'S where they went!

The day after...

Ha ha! Is that a basket of bread?

Oh!

FOOD! FOOD!

tweet

tweet

Shoo, birds! That's my dinner!

The horns of the Qilin are like relics given to us by nature.

THAT'S how useful they are!

Everyone likes a little extra storage!

Urgh...

So I know just how you feel.

Jiang Ziya

How embarrassing...

Zhu Bajie loves to fight.

The wife always used to say...

Don't do something 'cause you gotta—do it 'cause it's RIGHT!

Zhu Bajie

Speaking of the wife...

You know what else she said?

Ya sure do talk about yer wife a lot.

Sorta makes a guy wonder...

Sure ya ain't just pretendin' to be cheerful 'cause yer seriously homesick?

Heh heh.

Just tell us the truth! We're your friends!

Urgh.

Linus

Homesick? Well...

If "home" is where the wife is...

Heh.

then of course I'm gonna miss it.

Whaaa...

My damn heart just started racin'!

thumpa

A round of applause for the hunk in our midst!

clap clap

clap

thumpa

Ha ha ha!

Thanks, fellas!

Sha Wujing is an engineer who designs weapons.

The future of civilization is in my hands.

Sha Wujing

Hmm...

Oh hooo?

Ugh. These weak flame showers just aren't doing it for me.

A girl needs to bathe in hot lava from time to time!

Aaaaah, I know EXACTLY how you feel.

The heck?

All my time spent developing weapons has made me quite accustomed to...POISON.

POISON?!

Sometimes I even find myself wanting to try something stronger!

creeeeep

shiver

Yesss, the tenacity of creatures like us can be QUITE astounding, mmm?

WE ARE NOTHING ALIKE!

I'M THE FLAMEWYRM!

I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN FLAME!

Aaaah, what a shame.

I'd hoped I'd found a kindred spirit.

Wu Kong is training to become a sealer.

whooosh

huff

pant pant

That dumb cloud threw me off again!

puff

Be careful, Wu Kong!

Wu Kong

One who cannot even control a cloud has no right to call themselves a disciple of Xuan Zang.

SCREW YOU, BUDDY!

Dragon Dedicated to Xuan Zang
Yulong

Controlling that thing is REALLY HARD!

Hmph! You only say as much because you are unused to the feeling of flight.

Easy, guys...

Why WOULD I be?! I don't have WINGS!

Then you may learn on my back— I shall bear you aloft as many times as it takes!

flap

flap

Ha! I'm gonna be the king of flying before you know it!

I'm glad you two are such close friends.

Whaaaaat?!

flap

NO WE AREN'T!

NUUUH UUUUUH!

flap

CERTAINLY NOT!

Nadine is a girl who uses a strange magical device.

SNAP!

Selfie time!

C'mon, strike a pose!

Nadine

This again?

Heavens, what HAVE you done to our faces?!

My device decorates pics with fun stuff all by itself! Isn't it totes rad?

You can even use filters to make yourself look prettier or whatevs.

I am VERY confused.

?

Oh! Hey, mind if we crash your little picture party?

Sure! Stand together, guys!

Saaaaay cheese puffs!

SNAP!

FIIIILTERRRR

...Holy crap, Ranzal. We look GOOOOOD.

Have my Ultra Zardin Cosmetics found a rival?!

Thus did a new world reveal itself to Ranzal and Luca.

SNAP!

Zardin

Linnea seeks to find ugliness in humanity.

The moon is beautiful.

Linnea

And yet...

Eatin' in moonlight is the BEST!

Woo hoo!

Yeeeah!

Wait, how many of those did you HAVE?!

Don't matter— I'm bigger'n you, so I need more.

Umm...

Shh...

The last one was mine! Give it to me!

Too bad! I already ate it!

Umm...

Apparently humans and sylvans can be equally bad.

I almost can't watch...

GIMME THAT!

What have you there, Prometheus?

I found them on the floor. I believe they're called... glasses?

I seem to recall someone in the castle wearing them.

Prometheus

I haven't the faintest idea what they're for, though.

Likewise.

I believe you wear them like so?

Ugh!

Midgardsormr

GYAAAAAA!!!

I can't... I can't see! Everything is blurry! What ARE these accursed things?!

Whatever is the matter?!

pant *pant* Oh, thank goodness. Everything is back to normal.

What could possibly possess someone to don such a horrible item?

?

Urgh! My head is spinning...

We can't all be perfect, I'm afraid.

Heh heh heh...

Explain yourself at once!

You there! What are those things for?!

Owner of the Glasses
Edward

Alas, he just laughed enigmatically for the fun of it.

Orsem and Luther are dancing to pass the time.

ONE two three...

ONE two three...

clap clap

clap

And then...

Luther

Orsem

Finishing pose!

BAM!

Yesss! Nailed it!

Dancing without ice skates is actually fun! Who knew?

Dancing is the best— it makes everyone feel better.

Plus, I worked up a real sweat!

Nice!

KER-SPROIIIING!

Whoa! Your hair!

It's all the moisture.

Yeah, it's kind of embarrassing...

Also, this means it's going to rain tomorrow.

That's all it takes?!

Your hair can predict the WEATHER?!

Zena came from another world.

I just want to help however I can.

Thanks for pitching in with the cleaning, Zena!

Zena

Annelie

Here's a thank-you kiss!

!

SMACK!

SMACK!

And here's one from me.

I...

Er, sorry. Did you not want one?

Sorry if I invaded your space bubble!

N-no, that's not it...

I just... I was just thinking that I want to protect this happiness.

Oh, you!

In that case, we'll protect it together!

Ahhh!

KISS ATTACK!

SMACK!

SMACK!

SMACK!

SMACK!

Eeek! Th-that's enough, thank you!

Laxi has the personality of Mascula—an android created to be her other half—living inside her.

Laxi

Morning, **Masculaxi!**

▷But I can still speak through Laxi!

!

Mascula

Kindly do not roll our names into one.

▷Aw, why not?◁

▷I see no harm in it.◁

Well, I do.

Okay, then what SHOULD I call you?

I am Laxi, and you may address me as such.

I resent Mascula's name coming first. If you must do this, I propose Laxila instead.

▷I kind of like Masculaxi, if I'm being honest.◁

▷But then the only part of my name left is "la"!◁

▷...Wait, the ORDER of the names was your issue?◁

Of course. This is my body, after all.

Bah. You talk too much, Mascula.

▷Ouch. That hurts.◁

These two would make a good comedy duo...

But Luca wasn't listening to a word they said, and continued using the name Masculaxi.

Nothing out of the ordinary in town today.

I hope it remains this peaceful.

Waaah! Waaah!

Hmm?

Fourth Scion Valyx

My kneeeee!

Did you fall over and scrape it?

Here. Use this handkerchief.

Waaah! Waaah!

He's so kind...

Are you sure, mister?

Of course. Look, it even has a bear on it!

Yaaay! So cute!

sniff

That's better. Now then, can you walk?

Yup! I'm fine!

Thanks, old bear man!

Old...

Age 22

E-everyone seems old in the eyes of children, sir!

Eugene hates standing out.

Eugene

Suu!

Sam

Guess I could help with the shopping...

Goodness, what a crowd!

These guys all need to chill...

Careful, everyone, or we might get separated.

The Shoppers

I just want to go home and play games...

Take my hand, Eugene. It wouldn't do for you to get lost.

?!

Wh... Why?!

Suu?

M-my h-h-hand!

We'll NEVER find you in here if we don't all hang on!

Aaargh...

Guess I'm the one who needed to chill... but holding hands was kind of...fun.

Can't believe I got so flustered... I'm SUCH an idiot...

Hey, if you had that much fun, we can go again sometime!

Gaaaaah!

Suuu...

...Sure.

Catherine is a noblewoman from a town with connections to Hinomoto.

I had some Hinomoto-style cuisine prepared to sate your hunger.

Please do enjoy.

Oho! Oho ho ho!

Catherine

It is a sushi roll modeled after my beautiful hair!

Voilà!

I call this dish "Catherine's Perfect Curls!"

This looks really dumb, but it tastes AMAZING.

It's got a real delicate flavor!

Yeah.

Eat as much as you'd like!

And if your bellies are still not full...

Eugene

Yaten

We've plenty more sushi here!

SNAP

Whaaaa...?!

Oho ho ho! A mere jest of my own creation, I assure you. Was it not DIVINE?!

The sushi was actually made by a 5-star chef.

This is but some false hair!

After that, they enjoyed every last bite.

There sure are a lot of folks from Hinomoto here now.

For example...

Very true.

Taro

Botan

Well, I think it's time to bring in... THAT.

Wait, do you mean...?

Yep! A **tatami mat!**

Oh, I've **MISSED** those!

Right?! Chairs are nice and all, but sometimes you just want to plunk down on some good ol' tatami.

Not too hot in the summer, not too cold in the winter...

I also love the smell.

Whether you're drinking tea or lazing around, they're just so reassuring!

Their Imaginations

This really takes me back...

It really... takes me... WAAAAAH!

Oh no! What's wrong?!

I just... I miss my mom and dad, okay?!

Oh no! Wait, please don't cry!

I miss Hinomoto...

Oh man, now I'M missing home...

Alas, the homesickness ran deep...

What ails you both?!

Is it food poisoning?!

sniff

sniff

Musashi

As seen in comic #261, Taro is feeling homesick.

Musashi

Taro

What to do, what to do...?

Oof, Taro looks bad. What happened?

Ah, Erik!

I fear Taro is missing home.

Erik

Yeah, I hear that. Heck, I spent 10 years on a deserted island.

Is that so?!

You must have discovered some way to ease your mind in that case?

Well, I dunno if it'll work for him, but I guess it's worth a try...

Ahhh, nostalgia... The sight of this always puts me at ease.

Waaaa...?

How are you feeling now, Taro?!

Euden

I see... So Taro passed his crying and homesickness on to you.

Which is why a troubled Musashi led you here.

Best of luck!

Musashi

I wasn't crying!

Hey! I SAID, I wasn't crying!

Botan

Ieyasu

In that case, Master Jiang Ziya is just the person to help!

Dun dun duuuun!

Behold my special relic, the ring of mystery!

And what power does this ring possess, mmm?

Okay, what's happening here?

Jiang Ziya

This ring lets you speak with anyone just by thinking of them and calling out!

Whaaaat?! Okay, come on.

No, really! Check it out!

Fine then. I summon...my grandmother!

Hello, dearie!

streeeetch

Your old granny missed you!

LIAR! My granny's hair isn't that dark!

Pow! Pow! Pow!

Ow! I'm sorry— Ow! I thought it might— Ow! Cheer you— Ow!

You're gonna pay!

No good, eh?

Many of those living in this country have worries and concerns.

Is there an organization responsible for keeping the peace? It must be dangerous here.

Heck no! Don't need one! This castle is, like, the peace-iest place EVER.

Kirsty

sniff Mother...

Hmm... Homesickness, is it? Well, an army must also be responsible for the mental health of its troops.

Taro

Botan

I was driven from my homeland, and now all I have is revenge.

My little brother doesn't need me anymore... Does life even have meaning?

Hmm... More dangerous thoughts.

Such environments breed crime and disorder. Something MUST be done.

Waike

Xania

Hey, are you all right? Me and my friends are always there if you need us!

Separated from his twin sister

Just ask anytime, okay? Because you MATTER!

Driven from his country

Forced to fight his siblings

sniff *Eudeeeeen!*

?

Lifelong Mental-Health Guarantee

What a fearsome man...

I'm so sorry I bawled like that! I'll do my best!

Mikoto began surfing to satisfy cats who wanted to ride the waves.

I'm happy the cats seem to be enjoying themselves...

But I hate how they have to wait in line.

Meow!

Meow!

Meow!

Mikoto

I can fit more cats on the board if I get off it.

Meow!

Er, but then where will YOU be?

splash

splash

Fear not— I am nature itself.

I shall be the wave that guides the cats onward!

WHOOOSH!

Meow!

Wow! It's like the board is moving on its own!

Oh no! The force snapped the board in two!

CRACK!

MROOOWR!

HISSSS!

Ah. Very well.

It seems I will have to ride the board after all.

WHOOOSH!

Wait, he can DO THAT?!

Yesssss!

VACATION, WOOOOOO!

Time for some fun at the beach!

Patia

...Or at least that WAS the plan.

Grrr...

Why is this beach overrun with fiends?!

Celliera

I take great pride in being a knight, but I was hoping to escape that for just ONE day...

BAP!

WONK!

I know how you feel, but I fear we have no choice.

Buuuut, at the very least...

sniff

TA DAAAAH!

We can DRESS like we're on vacation!

Okay, this is even MORE depressing!

THUNK!

Excellent form!

We'll make a vacation out of this yet!

FWEEET!

Hmm...

Why the long face, chum?

Kindling Imp

I want to get stronger and learn new abilities...

But I don't have enough Knight's Testaments.

Gee, he seems really down...

The heck is a Knight's Testament?

Oh, I have an idea! We should all do something for him!

I can't unlock any more nodes in my mana circles...

siiigh

Hinata

Gust Drake

Here, Euden! We made you some Knight's Testaments!

Euden's a knight!

He's super buff!

(And way nice!)

Now you can get even stronger!

Thanks, you guys...

Wow, a hand-made testament? Sweet!

I mean, I can't use it like a real one, but it's still pretty cool.

There's one for you, too!

This is great. I feel stronger already!

Strength Increased

Max HP Increased

Force Strike Damage Increased

Holy crap! This is BETTER than a real one!

BOOOOM!

At the Radiant City, Chanzelia

Stop right there, Paladyn! You will be my new horsey!

Please spare me, Your Highness!

Chelle

I am terribly unfit for such a role!

Now, now. There's no need to hide your true feelings.

Whoopsie!

Look out!

Are you hurt, Your Highness?

Please do not tease me!

THUMP

I see your potential would be wasted as a horse...

Instead, I wish you to serve on my royal guard!

WHAT?!

Oh, Chelle was VERY serious...

Alain, Ranzal, and Elisanne are out hunting fiends.

Today is the PERFECT day for retreating!

Guh?

Alain

Now let us commence falling back at once!

I refuse. We only just arrived!

Then might I propose some strategic backpedaling?

Heh.

The TERM yer usin' ain't the issue.

Ah, I see. Still, better to leave early than wait until it is too late!

You worry overmuch.

You should do as I do and carry around something that relaxes y...

...Hmm?

AAAUGH! MY TAIL IS GONE!

NO!

Could I have dropped it somewhere?!

Ahem! I'm... I'm fine! Y-yes, all fine here!

I am a Grand Paladyn with the power of an invisible tail! ... Ugh.

※ See comic #177

Sounds like we're gonna have to RETREAT and look for it.

An excellent plan!

Ta daaaah!

I am Laxi.

▷And I'm Mascula!◁

Laxi

Together, we are Laxila!

Mascula exists inside Laxi.

▷Say, folks! Did you know we've got a special combat mode we both control together?◁

Laxi and Mascula's Comedy Show

What's goin' on?

I told them they'd make a good comedy duo and they ran with it.

※ See comic #257

What was it called again? Armadillo Mode?

Accolade Mode?

▷Nope! That's an animal!◁

▷Seems too nice, doesn't it?◁

▷The correct answer is... Annihilation Mode!◁

None of those guesses were even CLOSE!

.....

slap

.....

Perhaps we should annihilate your memories.

clap

Aaaah!

No, it was funny! I swear!

SERIOUSLY! I'M DYIN' HERE!

▷Laxi, no!◁

clap

clap

Picture-Book Author Norwin

Okay, so I want this picture book about me and the ocean to be, like, the BEST.

Of course. Should we begin with a song or...

Hmm?

Tap Tap

Siren

THUNK!

Go through her managers!

Stay away from our daughter!

click click click click

Who ARE you?!

Ohmigosh, I'm SO sorry!

Stop trying to scare him, you guys!

Managers? Daughter?

...Those crabs in your hair are alive?

Aw, you can ignore them. Let's keep going!

snap

Uh, are you sure?

Totes!

A-are you REALLY sure?

I'm feeling some intense pressure right now...

Yuppers!

A little beach time is certain to make my experiments more successful.

Time to get cracking!

Sinoa

What kinda logic is that?

Try not to think about it too much. Anyway, I'm off to prepare my next experiment!

Let me help!

Rex

I didn't know you were here, Rex.

A'yup.

Yes, I invited him.

Heya!

After all, there's no guarantee I won't blow something up before I succeed!

So you brought him here as a repairman?!

You CAN refuse her, you know!

Yessir, but I thought it might be fun to visit the beach.

Oh! Well, I'm glad you're enjoying yourself!

Yay!

That flower really suits you!

I'm glad Nina is letting me work at her food hut...

Thanks for the help!

Nina

Amane

Ugh...

But I'm useless at everything the job requires!

I can't cook, I can't serve customers, and I can't clean up!

Aaargh!

Well, if I can't help run the place...

I can at least help advertise it!

Food and Cats This Way

NOW I'm helping!

Well, well.

Are you pitching in? How sweet of you.

Hee hee!

Verica

Norwin

You are an adorable little sign. Ha ha!

Food and Cats This Way

Hey!

It's not like tha—

Well, okay, it IS like that.

But stop treating me like a kid! I am an ADULT!

Sorry!

24 Years Old

The number of customers did increase slightly.

The name's Joe.

I set out to find new thrills, and ended up mastering the art of peeling potatoes instead.

Joe

See comic #148

Today, I'm working a part-time peeling gig.

Apparently there's going to be a big curry party later.

It's the perfect weather for one...

sigh

But it's gonna need more THRILLS if you ask me.

EGADS!

Apologies, sire! My hand slipped and I poured ALL of the chili powder into the pot!

Fool! That's the part-timer's pot!

Leonidas

I sense a thrill so great it'll leave everyone's tongues numb.

No it won't!

Get some coconut milk ready NOW—and peel more potatoes!

At once, sire!

The curry tasted great.

Heh.

Curran and Lathna have shown up to enjoy a Hinomoto-style summer festival.

Oh! That stall is selling candy apples. Wanna try one?

...Yes.

Curran

Lathna

Look at the size of that line! Must be good.

Behold the harvest. Do you seek it?

pples

Nyarlathotep

?!

Wait, why are YOU selling apples?!

?

What's wrong with selling apples?

The apples are not the problem here!

The problem is Nyarlathotep!

Hey! You got a problem with my employee?!

We are saddened.

sniff

No! I mean... I guess he's doing a good job?

Is he pretending to cry?

Well, if you're so worried, then YOU watch over him!

Wait, what?

Natalie

So that's how I came to be selling apples.

Welcome!

You realize you're just being taken advantage of, yes?

Yes, I realize that, Heinwald!

Heinwald

Ah, but it's been an age since I wore a yukata like this.

Maybe I'll just pop around to the Halidom.

Cassandra

Hello? Anyone awake?

Mayhap I came too late. I can't see where I'm walk—

Oh!

THUNK

Ooof. Now who went and put a rock there?

Owww...

Halt! Who goes there?

It's me, dearie— Cassandra.

On Patrol Berserker

Hmm?

Mind giving me a ha—

AAAAH! IT'S A GHOST!

I can't believe you called me a ghost, you rude, rude man!

My apologies for jumping to conclusions.

Red eyes!

Four horns!

Ghost!

Suddenly, Berserker understood why he frightened the children so much.

I brought Ku Hai like you asked.

Peng Lai

What do you need?

THAT!!!

Er, what?

Ku Hai

I want to fly around like that! Please show me how!

Is that all you called me here for? You look so... serious.

Yes! Show me! Pleeeeease!!!

※ See comic #64

Well, I don't see any harm in it.

Very well. First, let me lend you my hat.

Yaaay! Thank you!

Hmm? Does he even need the hat?

I can carry him like this, surely.

My faaaaace is geeeetting looooonger...

I think you need to put him down.

But I haven't carried him anywhere yet!

It's so pathetic to be this scared of people...

How can I get over it?

sniff

Strange...

Poli'ahu

Ricardt

You're able to speak in a perfectly normal way with me.

Hey, that's a good point. Maybe it's because you're a dragon?

In that case...

Perhaps you should practice by talking to animals.

Well, it's worth a shot.

I'll introduce you to some of my friends.

Oh!

H-hello, everyone...

Thank you for taking time out of your day to—

Meooooow!

Erm...

Umm...

gather here... um... meow?

Days Later

Wait. You spent so long talking to animals you now can only speak their language?!

Meooooow...

nod

Ricardt is now only able to speak like an animal. (See comic #278)

Meooow...

What should we do?

Ricardt

Hope

Edward

I believe I have an idea.

You do?!

Then try it, please!

I wonder what his plan is?

Maybe shock therapy of some kind?

Let us begin.

Grooooooooarrr...

Roooooaaaaarr...

Eee?

Rowr! Rowrrr!

Hmm? I was merely trying to deliver a friendly feline greeting.

That did NOT sound like a cat!

Also, we're trying to return him to normal, not communicate with him!

Ricardt is still only able to make animal sounds.

Mew! Mew mew!

Uhh...

Yeah, I don't get a word he's saying. How can we get him back to normal?

Hope

Ricardt

Pipple!

Hey there, Pipple!

Mew?

Pip!

Pipple

Meow!

Piya pip!

Meeew!

Wait, they're communicating? But Pipple's not an animal!

Also, I REALLY want to know what they're talking about...

Ricardt is saying he doesn't understand a thing Pipple says.

Okay, so they're NOT communicating!

Wait, how do you know—

Oh.

Because he just said so.

Riiight...

Hope forgot the Halidom has an animal expert.

Can Talk to Animals
Maribelle

Ricardt is STILL only able to make animal sounds.

Hey, I know! Let's have Maribelle teach Ricardt how to talk again!

Meeee? A teacher?!

Maribelle the Teacher

Hope

Ricardt

Maribelle

I can do that— I go to SCHOOL!

Several Days Later

Hope! Edward!

I'm soooo super sorry I made you all worried!

Waaah!

Hey, he's back to normal!

Edward

We can finally communicate again.

You gotta let me make it up to you! Pleasy-weasy!

...Hmm?

Whatcha want? Sweeties? Candy? A snuggly wittle animal friend?!

Something's not right here...

We have all we require, thank you.

Hmm?

No! You gotta let me HEEEELP!

I made you all worried and... and...

WAAAAAAH!

Great. Now he talks like Maribelle.

What do we do?

I have an idea...

Listen, dum-dum! We don't need anything from yooou!

Okay, now YOU'RE talking like her!

You must stand in someone's shoes to truly understand them.

In the end, Ricardt finally returned to normal.

Pinon is the youngest disciple of the northern branch of the Ilian Church.

I want the strength to defeat any foe in one strike!

Pinon

It's time for more cleeeeaniiing!

Singing makes everything fun!

Wow!

clap

clap

It's like I'm watching a performance.

Lucretia

AAAUGH! How long have you been listening?!

Why don't you come join us?

Thanks, but no.

My voice is so terrible, I've been banned from singing.

Is it THAT bad?

But I will help clean, if you want.

My curiosity is piqued.

Well, I suppose I could try singing ONE song...

Ack! Okay, it is DEFINITELY that bad!

I should have just kept quiet.

Laaa

Nevin is an apostle from the Ilian Church of North Grastaea.

Heh.

Ramiel

I'm more of an ideas man.

Not much for the ol' dust-ups.

If you keep feigning disinterest, you'll likely find yourself in real trouble one day.

Nevin

I can't imagine who taught you such cynicism.

You, most likely.

Actually... Say, you two known each other a long time?

sigh

I have raised him from childhood.

There was a time when he liked to wrap himself in bandages and role-play as a cursed hero.

Yeah, let's not get into... Wait, that never happened!

That was when he first started concealing one of his eyes.

Ha! I can tell you two got history.

This is all news to me!

Japes aside, it is hardly a surprise we would be similar.

You observed me often as a child, after all.

Nevin's Diary

Huh? What's that?

"Ramiel was poised and sharp-tongued again today. He's soooo cool!"

PFFFFT!

HEY!

That's my old diary!

Nevin's Diary

GIVE THAT BACK!

Looks like he ended up in real trouble after all.

I found it when tidying your room—which you clearly weren't going to do yourself.

Heh heh.

There's no way I wrote that!

Laxi was asked to help with chores instead of fighting.

slice slice slice

Laxi

All five vegetable varieties have been divided into equal portions.

I shall forever be impressed by how precisely you cut things.

Mind helping with this next?

PLOP

Sarisse

Laundry hanging complete.

Then this?

Hedge trimming complete.

Aaaaand this?

Floor cleaning complete.

She excels at everything!

It'll make life way easier for the poor suckers who usually do this crap.

Cleo'll be especially happy for a little downtime.

Ain't that right, Cleo?

Such speed! Such skill!

I must step up my game!

Housework = Life

Whatcha NEED to do is rest!

Leonidas

Ha ha ha!

Leonidas is a truly fearsome opponent.

But he MUST have some weakness!

Hmm... Come to think of it, I don't actually know much about my siblings.

But I bet Leif would know!

Yes, I have been acquainted with your brother since he was a child.

His weakness?

Leif

TA DAAAH!

I've heard tell that curry is his weakness.

Oh, this is absurd. Only a dullard would fall for such an obvious trap!

CURRY!

I almost don't want this to work...

Ack! It worked!

Oh no!

Stop, Your Highness! This is clearly a trap!

Do not interrupt my attempts to investigate new curries!

He may have fallen for the trap, but it isn't actually DOING anything!

Urgh!

THUD

He collapsed! Your Highness, stay with us!

I KNEW this was a trap!

You see? Curry.

Leif, did YOU make that curry?

I don't even know what's going on anymore!

Yuya heard a rumor that Poli'ahu used to be quite mischievous.

What kinda trouble do dragons get up to, huh?!

Poli'ahu

Yuya

Big fights to see who's the baddest of 'em all?! Or maybe ya just rain death down from the skies!

You seem very interested in this.

Easy, friend. It's not good to pressure others into talking about things they don't want to.

Fritz

I think he is less interested in the truth than in hearing an interesting story.

Maybe so, ya turkey!

Sadly, I don't have much to discuss.

But if you are interested, come meet me out back after lunch.

...Oh, and bring a present.

What she really means is, come to the Dragon's Roost later with a food offering.

Damn, she called me to meet her out back! That's the real deal! F-fine! I'll do it!

shiver

shiver

shiver

shudder

I think you actually scared him.

Heh. I know.

Nefaria has decided to disguise herself in the style of Nadine.

Henceforth, I am Queen Nefaria no longer...

Zounds! I am, like, Ria and stuff!

Nefaria

Hmm? All right, this is weird.

I am learning to speak improperly! Er, or whatever!

I got-this! Okay, so I've kiiinda been teaching Nefaria a thing or two.

Kirsty

Nadine

Such as her lowborn speech and patter, which I find to be totes amazeballs!

Ooo, and dancing! Show 'em that one you like!

I cannot recall its moniker, but arm movements are, like, THE key part.

But it is also surprisingly useful...

For it permits one to "loosen up, girl!"

Alas, I have no stiffness of which to speak. So I seek to teach this gambol to another. Behold my moves!

Wait, you thought this dance was for STIFF SHOULDERS?!

Actually, that might be nice after a long day glued to my desk...

Very well. Teach me your dance!

Like, verily! Now WORK those shoulders!

Is this it?

SNAP!

As culture is passed down, it changes form.

Nadine had mixed feelings about this...but decided to take some pictures anyway.

Hanabusa is preparing for another dance.

Urgh... Here come the nerves...

Hanabusa

Wow! You're REALLY good at applying make-up!

Oh yeah?

Do you think so? It's just something I do before dancing.

Foreign cosmetics?! Ha ha! Now you have Zardin's interest!

Oh no... He's here.

Zardin

Ah, I am even more beautiful this day than the last!

Now YOU look like someone I could get along with.

Let me show you the cutting-edge cosmetics I have developed!

I pray those aren't what I think they are...

Behold my Ultra Zardin Cosmetics!

GLEEEEEEAM!

Stop this at once, lest he think our country's sense of beauty is warped!

※ Hanabusa

※ Ultra Zardin Cosmetics are known for making people so beautiful they shine.

This is amazing! Now I can dance for hours without feeling nervous!

Heck, even if I screw up, no one can see it!

Uh, he seems to...like them?

But people will also not be able to see him when he succeeds...

I love it!

It ain't a treasure hunt unless ya have a few brushes with death!

Oh, I agree!

Marty

But I can certainly handle a few traps.

Hmm, yeah. Yer a pro at this.

But whaddya think about THIS kind of adventure...?

We don't got no traps— just a heart-poundin' trip through a narrow alley!

I'm in!

Hurrrk! Damn, this is more narrow than I thought...

Kinda hard to breathe, actually...

Can you maybe twist your foot a bit?

I-I'll try...

Ow! That's MY foot!

What in the world is...

EEEEEEEK!

Heya, Cleo...

Urgh... squeeeeeze

Ignore us! Just...on an adventure...

They got in a lot of trouble that day.

Cerberus is a dragon with three heads. ...Er, sort of.

These two are called Coco and Mimi! They're really strong!

We sure are!

Cerberus

You have fluffiness on BOTH of your hands?!

Augh! I'm so envious!

Still, you probably can't really ENJOY the fluffiness if they're on your hands.

Torture!

Ha ha! That's where you're wrong.

If I want to enjoy their fluffiness...

FLUFFYYYYY!

I do this!

fluff

fluff

So cuuuuute!

SO. ENVIOUS.

If only I had something fluffy on my hands...

Oh!

I know!

For the last time, I am NOT sewing those things for you!

What're you doing?

Aldred

Just a bit of self-care!

You treated me like a cat for doing this, but I bet you gotta file your nails down, too.

※See comic #226

Aw, my nails are fine.

The only thing I need to file down...

...is my hair!

SHING!

...What?

※See comic #3

Notte Ball

This tree here looks perfect, sooo...

VROOM!

NOTTE BALL, AWAAAAY!

snap

Oops.

His instincts warned him to never get on her bad side.

The Halidom is a fine castle, but it looks somewhat vulnerable.

Well, it IS protected by draconic power...

But that might not be enough if a giant army decided to attack.

Aye, leave it to me!

Lazry

Leif

Whoa! Those look strong!

BRUUUM BRUM BRUM BRUM!

I can power 'em up more if ye'd like.

More?! It's great to defend the castle, but it looks terrifying!

WHOMP

Whew! Strengthening the castle walls is definitely useful! And as a bonus, it doesn't look threatening.

Rokkan technology is truly impressive.

Even if the Empire were to invade, we should be safe fro—

BOOOOM!!

Sorry! So sorry! Failed experiment! Again!

I canna believe this daft lass destroyed me walls!

Perhaps we should deal with internal threats before worrying about external ones.

Sinoa

Dragalia Lost

AND Dragalia Life

have made it to their second anniversary!

This is such a special occasion, you may each have TWO strawberries with your cake.

Oooo!

Yummers!

Such a treat!

TA DAAAAH!

Wait, why do the two of you have more than everyone else?

Uh oh. She's got the crazy eyes!

We're innocent, I swear!

I gave them mine.

I do, but those two seemed so... desperate.

Do you not enjoy strawberries?

See?

Mercury

Then you can have mine, Mercury.

Oh my.

And YOU may have mine, Your Highness!

Oh dear. Oh, very well. Everyone can have as many strawberries as they want today.

Yaaay!

Here's to another year!

I'm a spiritual mana projection.

Changes in my mana are reflected in my clothes.

Zena has a new look.

So you can instantly get changed out of your pajamas?

That sounds amaaazing.

Er...

Well, it's not quite THAT instantaneous.

Yaaawn

squeak!

Mitsuhide

Maybe if she stands between us she'll end up in a circus getup!

Fritz

Boss...

That's not quite how it works...

Annelie

Stop teasin' her already, guys.

She's tryin' to tell ya it ain't any kinda useful skill.

NOT USEFUL

gasp

I... I can do SOME things with it!

For example, if I'm low on mana and turn transparent, I can blend into the environment!

Probably!

Damn. That's just sad.

Meene is a faerie who lived a thousand years ago.

I'm the size of an ordinary human now.

But I'll shrink back down eventually.

Meene

One of my friends is actually a tiny faerie!

Really?

Yes! She's so cheerful and funny.

And she's even tried to help out in battle!

Time-Traveler Zethia

When she rolls herself up, her hair spikes out all over the place.

See comics #3 and #291

Like this!

My, how convenient. I wonder if I can do the same?

Notto Ball

Hee hee!

Huh?

I'll be able to do even MORE damage since I'm so much bigger!

SHING!

BAM!

WHOOSH!

Oh dear!

The heck, man?!

I feel like some thousand-year-old lady is trying to copy my moves!

Huh?

I got no idea what yer on about...

Ilia is a genius alchemist who lived a thousand years ago.

There's nothing I can't make!

Yeah, baby! I was trying to make a device to intercept messages when I remembered those old cup-and-string dealies people used to use!

Check it!

Ilia

Oh, what memories! My brother and I used to play with these.

Fun, right?

Try holding it to the ground, Mordecai. You might be able to communicate with the earth.

Helloooo! Hee hee!

Mordecai

Uh, who's this?

Wow...

I hear a voice!

Ilia really is a genius.

Wait, it actually WORKS?!

Hold on! Who ARE you?!

push push

No! I want to speak with the earth as well!

push

Oh dear.

Ilia's curiosity and Mordecai's thirst for knowledge have started a fight.

.....

Ummm...

Hello, earth! Come in!

Am I just tired, or is the ground talking?

sigh

You would have to be tired to hold a cup to the ground to begin with...

Somehow, they were able to communicate across time.

Mordecai came from another world.

My body was given to me by Ilia.

But there is still much I do not know about this place.

Mordecai

Why are backsides split in two instead of three?

Completely serious

THAT is what you wish to know?

Didn't expect to be talking about butts today, but okay?

Ilia

Meene

I have heard people say their backsides feel ready to split after spending too much time on a bicycle.

But if that is such a concern, why aren't they just split again to begin with?

Yeah, this is all sorta outside my field of expertise...

Maybe you should have some of Meene's herbal tea and just chill.

We've got snacks, too!

Thank you.

It looks wonderful.

.....

Wait, why are they even split to begin with?

Are you STILL on about this?!

Ha ha!

It's okay—everyone goes through this phase at some point.

Melsa wants to make a good costume for the Halidom's Halloween party.

I shall put a scare into everyone!

Melsa

Hmm?

Why is no one frightened?

You kiddin' me? Who's gonna be scared of THAT face?

Too cute!

Then my face is the problem? In that case...

How about this?

Oh man, so many bandages! That's great!

SCAAAARY!

Excellent! Then on with the frightening.

Ooof!

You okay, Melsa?!

I can't see... Augh! And my bandages are caught on something! I'm going to fall!

THUD!

spin

Urrrgh...

Oh no! My fake-blood ketchup!

WHAM!

Several minutes later...

Ketchup

EEEEK! GET AWAAAAAAY!

Additional bandages from her wounds

She may have scared everyone, but I don't think this is what she had in mind...

Akasha is wearing a magical outfit that lets her harness the powers of vampires.

I hunger...

drool

Then let me prepare you something.

Akasha

Heinwald

How very kind of you.

Vampire Weakness Delight

Voila!

It is a garlic sandwich held together by a wooden stake. Might I suggest you sit in the sun and enjoy?

My! This has quite the strong taste.

munch

munch

Hmm... So even though you can use a vampire's powers, your body itself has not changed.

Unless this means that vampires' legendary weaknesses are not real...?

fzzzzt

!!

What did...?

Vampire or no, it's not good to have too much of anything.

And I've no desire to be sunburned.

Bah. So much for my experiment.

Hee hee!

Lapis is a thief who excels at disguises.

Très bien! You have caught me!

But I have a way out of this!

Stop, thief!

Lapis

Ahem!

"Ah, Elly. You look so beautiful today."

Huh?! Wh-why do you sound like His Highness?!

No disguise is complete without the ability to imitate a voice! This will create the opening I need to escape.

"Surely you can let me off this once, my beloved Elly?"

St-st-stop talking like that at once!

Hee hee!

"Let us go live in quiet solitude somewhere, just the two of us..."

Wait. His Highness would never say that.

Curses!

Ah yes, love is difficult— but if you've anything you'd like me to say in his voice, I would be happy to oblige!

I wouldn't DREAM of such a thing, madam!

...Hold on, let me think of some lines.

Uh... Are you gonna catch her or what?

The pirate captain Karina performed an opera in front of her crew members.

Karina

Laaaaa!

YAAAAR! The cap'n be the BEST! WOO HOO!

Pirates

That be fine singin', says me!

Have some flowers!

I'll be takin' yer autograph!

Would you fools calm down already?

Hmm? What's that book?

Karina's... Fan Club Zine?

Yar, I started ye a fan club!

Gahar har!

Karina Fan Club Zine! Today's Events: Opera Live Show Lullabies

WHAT?!

Who said you could do that?!

Eeek! I be sorry, cap'n! !!

Wait... She signed it?

Methinks she be practicin' THIS signature...

scribble

Karina

I can't believe you didn't involve me in this from the start!

Cap'n Karina forever!

The fan club was made official.

fidget

fidget

Karina

Chelle is now accompanying Euden and his friends on their journey.

Rejoice! For with me at your side...

Chelle

Your journeys are about to get MUCH easier!

Oh, fiddlesticks. I'm out of arrows.

Mid-battle

BOOM!

POW!

Then ya better get back!

Fear not, my musclebound friend. I can handle this.

?!

Why ya takin' yer belt off?

swish

Come get some, fiends!

WHHH-KSSSSH!

I shall whip you into shape like an ill-behaved horse!

Eee hee hee!

She's usin' it as a whip!

Well, this is TERRIFICALLY uncomfortable. Fiends make for poor steeds indeed!

sigh

She beat all of 'em...

Yeah, she has a thing for turning stuff into whips.

Okay, that's terrifyin'.

That formal outfit really suits you!

Wow!

Thanks!

It's for special occasions, so I'd better keep it clean.

Hmm?

Rumble...

Joachim

What do you guys like better, cats or dogs?!

Or birds?!

What the heck?!

Mikoto

Durant

Aoi

Yeah, we got a bit heated talking about our partners.

I'm not part of this.

You're a dog man, yeah?! SAY IT!

Well, of course I like them.

I have one, after all.

Whoa there!

Easy, you two!

You're getting hair on my uniform!

What about you, Euden?

Well, if talking about our partners, I guess I'm a dragon fan?

Argh!

Guess that makes sense...

Peace can be chaotic.

We must merely accept it.

You guys better help me clean this!

Noelle finds herself lost in unknown territory.

Oi! I think we got ourselves a target!

Don't look like much of a fighter, that one...

Bandits

Noelle has difficulty speaking her thoughts.

Let's steal her loot while she's alone!

flap

Are you lost?

flap

Blimey! A dragon!

AC-011 Garland

This place is dangerous. Let me be your guide. Follow me.

Oh! Thank...

...!

Is that dragon her FRIEND?! Hard to say... Better just watch.

Erk...

turn

Hmm? What's she doin' with her finger? Is she attackin' it?!

H-here I go

trace trace

Oh!

Thanks

twitch twitch

Writing on his back

Ack!

In their minds

I need only my finger to fight!

It tickled

RETREEEEAT!

The first scion of Alberia, Leonidas, is now listening directly to his people.

Oh my! It's Prince Leonidas! Eeeee!

Leonidas

What IS that commotion?

A number of people, moved by your behavior, have named themselves your bodyguards, Highness.

Bodyguards?

Army Staff Officer

We love Leo!

Team Leo!

Make me curry!

They aren't armed, and pose no real danger.

I imagine some of them are Chelle's "kittens."

Hmph.

You refer to her spies, sire?

A chaotic situation like this is the perfect camouflage for intrigue.

You there!

You seem suspicious! Are you a kitten?!

Wh-what?!

Aaaah!

Days Later

Dear Chelle,

I can no longer handle all these people insisting they are kittens.

MUST you know what manner of handkerchief and hair product I use?

Meow!

Meow!

What is he even talking about?

Chelle

Word of Leonidas's dramatic approach to his fans quickly spread across the continent.

Pecorine arrived here from another world— and she's VERY hungry.

Wow!

Look at all the onigiri that came out of Mitsuba's bag!

See comic #215

chomp

munch

munch

Pecorine

Mitsuba

Pipple

You sure are enjoying those.

Piiii!

Wash it down with some tea?

Gladly!

Hm? Is that little guy a fiend?

A vegetable, actually.

He supplies the stock for many of my dishes.

Cute AND tasty? Now that's a winning combination!

I'd love to try that stock sometime!

Good boy.

Pipple pi!

Yes? What is it?

poke

poke

WHAT THE HECK?!

Your ravenous appetite summoned an army of Pipples!

Oh geez!

How crazy is that? ☆

Are you SURE they aren't fiends?

All-You-Can-Eat Buffet

Mitsuba is learning to fish so she can practice her outdoor cooking skills.

Mitsuba: Give me your best shot. I'm ready to learn!

Fishing Teacher Thaniel: That's the spirit!

Someday, I'm gonna reel in the biggest fish in the lake!

Yes, well... About that.

blub blub

SPLOOSH!

Oh yeah, I caught that thing ages ago. Sorry!

See comic #122

What?!

Veteran Survivalist Erik: But I don't mind taking its place until a new one shows up.

You?!

Yeah sorry, I don't have much use for fish I can't cook and eat...

He caught them bare-handed...

Hey, don't get down!

Between you and me, the big ones are really bland, anyway.

Yes, dash our dreams.

At least, the one from here sure was. Blech!

It took all my strength just to finish it.

His years in the wilderness must have been quite traumatic...

Cheer up! I can show you how to cook that blandness away!

This is my first time camping alone!

Well, time to set up the tent.

Hey, Cleo?

Cleo

Mind helping me out of this thing?

fidget

fidget

Yafen

Thought it'd be comfy to nap in, but now I'm stuck.

Also, didn't know it was yours. Sorry.

My sleeping bag...

Do you mean I carried you all the way up this mountain?!

fidget

Oh, no. I ran after you 'cause I thought you'd need this.

Your... legs...

Yeah, I know. Sorry again.

Right...

caaaw

caaaw

sigh...

Alas, it seemed he'd be trapped forever.

Lily is excited to practice delivering presents on a sleigh.

I still need more practice!

Let's go!

Jingle Jingle

Lily

No way! I'm pooped! I can't do all this alone!

Us reindeer demand ethical workin' conditions!

pant

pant

I'm so sorry! I'll go look for more helpers.

Reindeer Ranzal

Just the people we need!

TA-DAAAH!

Hello.

Hey there!

Those ain't reindeer!

Fluffy Hope & Berserker

(Dressed as they were in comic #244)

Well, beggars can't be choosers.

All right, this formation should work great!

Let's start by turning right.

pant

Wait, your shoulders're... ARGH!

Are you okay?! Eeek!

BANG!

I am SO sorry!

In the spirit of the season, Lily gave him the rest of the day off.

Lily and Victor are scouting the movements of imperial soldiers.

So, uh, fellas?

Is it just me, or does that big guy look familiar?

whisper

whisper

Ain't he the former commander of the Shadewolves?

Damn! There goes my chance to keep observing them.

Lily

Victor

Well, there's only one thing we can do now...

So it would seem.

Commence...

OPERATION DRAGONYULE DANCE!

HO HO HO!

Jingle jingle!

Gather round, all ye who wish to dance with Saint Starfall!

HO HO HO!

Jingle jingle!

Oh yeah!

Get down!

Jingle jingle!

Yeah, never mind. The leader of the Shadewolves would never do...whatever this is.

Hey! Welcome... back?

Any idea how to get this guy back to normal?

HO HO HO!

He got a little TOO into his new role...

Must... calm down...

Seimei is a genius, but also always on the verge of flipping his lid.

My annoyance grows.

Gozu Tenno! Fetch me a tea!

Grr...

At once, my lord.

Seimei

Gozu Tenno

My lord. I've made you a cup of the most relaxing tea Alberia has to offer.

Are you implying I need to relax?!

whoosh

No need to be so aggressive, Lord Seimei.

Marvelous Naoto Back from Scouting

Let relaxation into your heart!

Now let me give you my report in the form of my specialty: **enka music!**

glug

glug

Fine. Just make it quick.

But of course!

Well then... ♪

Oh...

...

I'll have another.

...

Has enjoyed enka since childhood because of his beloved grandfather.

Ahhh...

Gozu Tenno's choice in tea is always impeccable.

Nice one!

Yoshitsune is an elderly soldier who becomes young again only during battle.

Happy New Year!

Yoshitsune

I've gotta get extra pumped for all the celebrating we're about to do!

So pumped that it turns you young again?

Naturally.

First, I need to climb a mountain to watch the sunrise!

Wait, what?!

Then I've gotta run back down!

Then I need to pound some mochi!

sproing

WHAM

THEN it's time for some hanetsuki!

Okay yeah, I think you're getting WAY too into this. I mean, everyone else is just taking it easy!

Mitsuhide

A lazy new year is the BEST new year.

Several Hours Later

Heyyy! Yoshitsune's not getting up!

I think she went all out because she saw this coming. Hee hee!

Zzzzzz...

Kuzunoha loves pulling pranks, but rarely succeeds.

Kuzunoha: This time, I'm gonna get Lord Seimei real good!

Seimei: Which means I gotta plan somethin' out with Prankmaster Luca...

Pranking Tutor Luca: Happy to help!

How's this for a Hinomoto-style prank?

BOING!

Hot dang! I was so surprised, my body went'n changed on me!

POOF!

WHAT?!

Heh, I'm yankin' yer rope! Changin' form's just something I can do.

POOF!

Got ya pretty good, huh?

Why am I teaching you pranks when you can do THAT?!

Well that ain't gonna do nothin' for Lord Seimei. He knows I can do it!

Wait! Maybe if YOU learned how to transform too, y'could do the prank in my place!

What? Yeah, that sounds... really hard.

Lord Seimei, please teach my prankmas— I mean, please teach ol' Luca here how to transform!

He won't use it for nothin' bad, cross my heart!

You want me to learn FROM the guy we're pranking?!

So that's what this is. Begone.

Another failure...

Euden and his friends are out enjoying the tournament stalls.

The unending matches were making me quite tense...

But this should alleviate that nicely!

Ieyasu

Happy New Year!

CHOMP!

AAAH!

OH NO! Elly just got chomped!

Shishimai

Worry not. This is a sign of good fortune.

Huh...

Though I must admit the chewing HAS been going on for a while now.

Perhaps she's having a private discussion with the person inside! Ha ha!

Person inside?! How dare you!

Indeed, there was no discussion—and I **CERTAINLY** did not purchase any confidential information.

Hold on, what?!

cough

But more importantly...

Someone is selling paintings of the prince in a kimono! And they're apparently going fast!

I must go. There is another fight I cannot afford to lose.

She looks like she's ready for battle! Why?!

Oh dear.

Hinomotoan New Year's is so interesting!

I'm really feeling this kimono!

But...

As a sylvan, life without the ol' bellybutton out just feels kinda...wrong.

It...

It does?

sigh

Hanabusa

Oh yeah. You've seen how Cleo always walks around looking sad, yeah?

Wait, THAT'S why?!

I clearly don't understand sylvan culture one bit...

Well shine my shoes, this sounds like a job for me!

Bringin' yer bellybutton back'll be a cinch.

scribble scribble

!

POP!

Onmyodo User Kuzunoha

Whoa! It's like I really have a bellybutton again!

He didn't really think it was gone forever, did he?

Onmyodo is the best!

Bellybuttons for sale, one fried tofu each!

Ta-dah!

RAT-A-TAT-A-TAT

Taste a defeat most elegant!

Chelle

The day is won!

Whew!

Mew're all covered in dust, Chelle.

An inevitability of battle, I'm afraid.

Nice job!

Cat Sith

I'll simply have to bathe when I retu—

LLLLLICK

Mew can't wait that long!

lllick

LICK

I will not stand purr it!

LICK

All right, all right! Enough!

lick lick lick

Is she getting...

groomed...

by the fluffy dragon?!

What the blazes?

pat

twitch

pat

roll

roll

roll

What ARE you two doing?!

I hear rumors of an establishment that sells high-quality grape juice!

I'm bored—

I mean, I'm curious! I must go see this store for myself.

We should follow and keep him safe!

click

Emile

You there! Shopkeep!

I demand a grape juice!

Ding!

Oh dear...

What a rude kid...

Right away, sir!

SLAM!

Ah, what a rich bouquet!

You're quite the connoisseur. That's my favorite vintage— and it's from **Saint Lotier**, no less!

...Saint Lotier, you say?

Yeah, those grapes are delicious because **Mercury** guarded the waters in that area.

But some jerk of a prince tricked her, so she's not there anymore.

Sadly, it means the next batch probably won't be as good.

How sad.

.....

Mercury

Oh! How did it go?

Ding!

I somehow couldn't taste anything...

What?! Did they give you water instead of juice?!

A new hot spring has opened up!

Hmm. I suppose I could give it a try...

Ooo! They have special baths that change every day!

YOU'RE not getting in!

No fair...

Still Undercover Emile

Whoa! This place is NICE.

What are THEY doing here?!

I have to keep my glasses on so they can't recognize me!

fog fog

Augh! They're all steamed up!

Is this shampoo? I can't tell!

scramble

All I want to do is wash my hair...

Oh, to hell with it. I'll just use everything!

We're leaving.

twitch

Emile's disguise adventure was a complete disaster.

What a NIGHTMARE!

Why must everything go wrong in my life?!

Mew!

Silence, feline!

Hmm? Wait, a cat?

Emile

(Got any snacks, human?) Mew!

(C'mon, gimme the goods!) Mew!

rub

rub

Are you trying to comfort me? How adorable!

Very well. I will take care of you!

Back Home

You wish to adopt a cat, you say?

Can you truly look after it yourself?

nod

Do you swear to do this?

Mew!

Mew!

Leonidas

Who does he think I am? Any fool can look after a CAT!

Drink up! Let us celebrate our new partnership with a toast using my favorite drink!

Mew?

glub glub

Don't ever give grape juice to cats!

I bet that chump's sleepin' on the job again!

Yaten

I can help search if you like.

Thanks.

Natalie

Then I will look over—

POP!

YATEN!

What?!

You in here?!

SLAM!

He couldn't possibly be in those places!

No one sleeps in a cupboard!

Surely...

Oh, he'll sleep ANYWHERE.

AH HA!

THERE he is!

Zzz...

He really IS sleeping in there!

Am I seeing things?

Just you wait, Luccy! Tee hee!

You're getting the best Valentine's present ever—ME!

Chelsea has wrapped herself up like a present.

Someone's fired up today!

Your present is on her way!

Oh, Luuuuccy!

Sadly, she is like this EVERY day.

Sarisse

I bet he's gonna be excited. SO excited.

pant

EVERYONE LOVES PRESENTS! GRAAAAAWL!

pant

Whoa, Chelsea! Easy on the drool!

Or... Wait.

What if he refuses to accept me?

Wait, she's thinking logically? She must have come down with something!

Oh no! She has a fever!

Apparently she spent two hours in a hot spring before wrapping herself...

He bought tons of nougat for Valentine's Day.

Well, now what?

I can't give all this out today!

Eugene used to be something of a recluse.

Never thought I'd see a day where I had TOO many people to thank...

But do they even want presents from me?

Oh, Eugene.

Sigh

Aurien

Hm. The lad seems troubled...

Heya, Eugene! Damn, those look goooood.

I was planning to give you some, actually.

Really?! Thanks!

I'll get you back, don't worry!

Would you like some of these, Eugene?

A trade? Uh, sure!

Might I have a little as well?

Me too, please!

You betcha!

Nicolas

Pia

Ah, youth...

Oh! Found you, Aurien! Do you want some?

Heh. I certainly do.

Happy Valentine's Day!

You play the piano so well, darling!

Ahh...

Thanks!

I'd love to perform a duet with you, but playing an instrument seems difficult.

Hmm...

Well then, why not try singing?

Lucretia

I'll think up some killer dance moves to go with your song!

Maritimus

Thank you, one and all!

If you need a producer, I'm your dragon!

Siren

Karina

My darling and I will make a duet hotter than magma!

YAY!

Count on it!

We're going on a world tour together...

Zzz...

Zzz...

She fell asleep to the sound of the piano.

Ha ha! Sure looks like she's enjoying her dream.

Dragon of Storms and Disaster

What strange people you are.

Why would you welcome a dragon that brings only disaster?

Pazuzu

What kinda disasters do you make, anyway?

A flap of my wings takes down buildings...

BOOM!

OH NO! Sinoa screwed up another experiment and blew a hole in the wall!

My roar fills the air with poison...

OH NO!

Everyone who ate the food collapsed in agony!

Was it poisoned?!

No, just REALLY BAD! Who let Leif in the kitchen?!

Aw, we're used to all that stuff.

Don't sweat it—we'll be fine!

.....

OH NO!

We're NOT fine!

Even Pazuzu must think this is nuts!

Heh.

What?! Why does he look so happy?!

He's seriously good with this?!

How strong you people are.

I brought what you requested, Valerio.

Gah!

Don't surprise me like that! I could have cut myself!

Valerio

Jurota

Must you ninjas always be so stealthy?

My apologies for surprising you.

But I must remain ever vigilant if I am to protect my master.

Ugh.

Huh.

Anyway, thanks.

Here, try some of this.

Oh? Could this be Hinomotoan tea?

Yes, Mitsuba brought it from home. I think it's called green tea?

Mitsuba

You don't say...

sip

Hmm...

Ahh... This taste is so nostalgic.

Apparently tea is all it takes to break your vigilance.

He had no reply.

Jurota can't get over the fact he let his guard down.

How could I be so careless?

Such a thing cannot happen again.

Hey, Juro—

I must be vigilant!

Jurota

WHAT?! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

Ah! Sorry. It's nothing, really.

I... I see.

Hey, Juro— Whoa! Never mind.

Oh, Jurot—

Eeep! I mean, er...it's nothing.

?

?

Umm...

Ohmy goshI'm sosorry pleased on'thurt me!

???

EEEK!

Pia

Why does everyone think I'm angry?

Jurota found himself questioning what being vigilant really meant.

Wheeew...

Ryszarda is a tall Ilian Apostle who wants to improve her posture.

Hm. I don't hunch over when I wield a lance, though...

Then maybe you should always be carrying something.

Ryszarda

Here!

How about a flag pole? Or a fishing rod? Or a clothesline?!

Take your pick!

My, they're all so long!

I'd prefer something less cumbersome...

Okay then, how about this?

I found it on the ground!

Er, what is it, exactly?

Ohmigosh! That's my selfie stick!

Nadine

Oh, I'm sorry! You can have it back.

Crouch down a bit and look up, Ryszarda.

Pssh! Girl, it's fine. Now c'mere and let's get our snaps on!

Very well!

Okay, like, not THAT far.

so crazy!

I...didn't know when to stop...

Now your back is hunched in the OTHER direction!

twitch

twitch

Help me...

Faris is a high-strung perfectionist of an apostle.

This castle is quite comfortable. Perhaps I ought to add a few points to its score.

Faris

Glad you like it! Let me show you around the courtyard.

This place is too wide open. I can't relax here.

If you'd prefer somewhere narrower, we have a mine shaft over here.

That wasn't what I... Wait, **you have a MINE SHAFT in your courtyard?**

Why are you down here?!

Sorry to startle you.

Oh!

Say, if you want a place you can be alone...

Gauld

You can always build a second home!

Oh! Are you new here?

A second home?!

Gloom Drake

Xander

Oh dear.

He's even deeper in there than usual.

I think I might have scared him.

How dare you call me gloomy! I'm deducting points!

Sorry!

Nevin

But I didn't...

I didn't know ya had a little bro!

Hey, I do too!

Louise

Do you two get along?

Delphi

Mostly, although we DO fight sometimes.

Oh yeah?

Hm.

Huh.

Yes, though usually I'm the first to give up. It's a real problem!

See, you two? This is what normal siblings are s'posed to be like.

But Lowen~

But Zethia~

See comic #30

Huh?

What I mean by "problem" is...

Hey!

Please!

Delphi's Perspective

Delphi's Brother Shion

Won't you do as I ask?

...He's just so CUTE when he does that, I have to forgive him!

EEE

I can't help myself.

Yer as bad as these two! UGH!

Are there any troublemakers around?

Justiiice...

What the heck?!

Sarisse

Karl in Team Justice's Uniform

Sarisse? Seen any troublemakers?

No idea. Also, um, it's Karl in there, right? Why are you in that fishy getup?

I'm with Team Justice— and this outfit is not at ALL fishy!

...

Nope, totally is. So where's the rest of the team?

I'm only in charge of supervising the kitchen. The others are elsewh—

Now's my chance!

Yoink!

Halt!

In the name of justice... you shall be PUNISHED.

EEK! Who ARE you?!

COME BACK, FOOD THIEF!

I can't believe I get to see Luca so scared...

Thank you, hero of justice!

HELP MEEEEE!

My darling is always too busy to pay attention to me.

I'm so bored...

sigh

Don't you ever talk about anything else, dearie?

Cassandra

Like you've never felt the same way before.

Oh, I'm far past the age where I fall head over heels for people.

Over 60 years old.

What?! You're younger than I am!

Still...

PAST the age means you USED to be like that, yes?

glare

Well, I suppose that's so.

Come to think of it...

The man I loved was quite similar to your "darling."

WHAT?!

I've not been in love for a long spell now, but perhaps—

You think you can take my darling, huh?!

Because if you do, I WILL END YOU!

Ha ha ha!

Ah, youth.

Grrr... You're SO MUCH younger than me!

Elisanne bought a dress for her stuffed toy.

Her Imagination

Aww...

So cute! I must put it on Matilda at once!

Ya buyin' Matilda a present there?

Absolutely not!

Ack!

Aw, ain't no reason what to be embarrassed. We all know ya like cute stuff.

I'm not embarras— Hmph, leave me be!

click

Elisanne's Room

So if it ain't for her, it's gotta be for them, yeah?

Whatever do you mean?

Wh...

Euden dolls she bought from Erik (See comic #143)

No, it's not—

Anyway, lunch is almost ready, so don't be late!

Argh!

BANG!

Waaait!

Eirene is a combat android who is always composed.

We're ready to begin.

I'll complete this mission as perfectly as any other.

Heck yeah, let's do this thing!

Eirene

Finni

Heya!

TA-DAAAH!

We're the comedy duo, **the Millennium Mates!**

ANOTHER comedy duo?! Androids are seriously into this stuff...

Show us what you can do.

You will be scored on a scale of one to ten.

The air of an experienced veteran!

Um...

Laxi

Laxi and Mascula have a comedy duo too! (see comics #257 and #270)

This is the first time Finni and I have worked together off the battlefield...

So please don't go too hard on us.

I know just how you feel.

Too... damn... cute...

10

10

We haven't even started yet!

Finni is a combat android who wears giant armor.

Dragons used to be my enemies...

but now I see they're really dependable allies.

Finni

I'm gonna make 'em some dragon-sized onigiri so we can be friends!

Your armor lends itself nicely to creating such large onigiri.

It sure does! I can get all the steaming hot rice...

AND CRUSH IT!

BAM BAM! MORE RICE! MORE CRUSHING!

squeeze

squeeze

Heavens, it will be solid as a stone!

You must still have a grudge against dragons...

Oh, she's making **bomb onigiri.**

BOMB?!

Yeah, it sounds dangerous, but it's really not.

Lemme just wrap it in seaweed aaand... voila!

Mitsuba

Arctos

Aw, yeah! This is perfect for a big appetite!

munch

munch

Oh, and take some for the others!

It's called bomb onigiri because it blows up your entire rice supply.

NOOOOO!

Lordy, my fingers are freezing!

Oh?

huff

Cassandra

Whenever I'm cold, I just think of my darling and feel all toasty again!

Wooo!

Well, someone's lively.

Ha ha!

I suppose that's the privilege of those in love.

sigh

If only I'd had the passion and honesty you possess now.

Well, there's no point lamenting the past...

Aw, that's so sad!

Anyway, enough of that.

Time to warm up with some tea.

Would you like some, dea...

...Oh!

My, this feels warm.

...Of course it does.

Man, you three are always together.

Don't all that togetherness cause problems?

Not at all—we're the BEST of friends!

Hey, Cerberus! I brought you some bread!

Cerberus

Yaaay! Thanks!

LET'S EAT!

ohm nom

ohm nom nom

Hey! You two ate it all!

sigh

Sorry! When you put food in my mouth, I sorta lose it.

Well, I also have a present that ISN'T food...

Oh...

Flower wreath

Three heads

.....

MINE!

See? You've got tons of problems!

NO, ME!

Wait, don't fight! I'll split it into three!

I WANNA WEAR IT!

Alberius was the founder of Alberia.

Our image of Alberius the Founder is mostly shaped by epic poems and junk.

He's like a superhero! I never thought I'd get to hear about him from someone who knew him.

Alberius

Nicolas

Please tell us everything you know!

Well, I don't see the harm...

I can't wait to hear new tales of his exploits!

Easy, now. Don't let yer imagination run wild.

Guy still put his drawers on one leg at a time, same as anyone.

Probably did plenty'a dumb stuff like tripping on banana peels.

WHOOSH!

What?!

WHOOSH

Oo

Or buttonin' up his pajamas all cockeyed.

Blech...

Blasphemy!

Oops.

Or not wantin' to eat his veggies.

Tell him he's wrong, Midgardsormr!

You knew him!

Ah, memories... It's like I'm back there with him right now...

Heh.

NOOOO!

Myriam is Alberius's exceptional assistant who can handle anything.

I can teach you all about human culture and magic!

What would you like to know?

Hmm. Interesting.

Myriam

Is it true that **first love** is **bittersweet** to humans?

What?!

Er, well, that is often how it is described, yes.

But I don't think such a thing is exclusive to humans.

I suppose you're right.

Was your first love bittersweet?

Hmm. In a sense, I suppose.

But honestly, it was more painful than bittersweet.

glance

Alberius

Argh! My chest!

Oh no! Does it still cause you pain?!

Is this the wound you spoke of?!

No, this is the result of trying to take my mind off that pain.

MEDIC!

Ugh!

Urk!

Your body is suffering from extreme overwork.

Doctor

This isn't what I was talking about, Cleo!

The pain of love is a wonderful thing!

Wheeze

Wheeze

pant

I see. I mean, I DON'T, but...

Midgardsormr has temporarily assumed human form.

Can you make some wind, Midgardsormr? I need to dry the laundry.

Alberius

Bah.

Humanoid Midgardsormr

I told you, I will not meddle in human affairs.

But half of these clothes are yours!

That is beside the point.

Fine. Have it your way.

Well, at least fly me around on your back and create a breeze THAT way!

Woooooo!

Why do you phrase this as a compromise when I do all the work either way?

His Imagination

I suppose it's fine in human form.

whip

RIIIIP!

Wooo!

Stop, you idiot!

Myriam

Why are you blaming me for this?

I'm sorry.

I sure hope she stops yelling soon...

Contains spoilers for Chapter 15 of the main campaign.

I'm not part of the royal family?

Zethia isn't actually related to me?

Don't let him get to you, darling!

Euden is troubled to learn of his origins.

He's lying!

Yeah, you're DEFINITELY real siblings!

And if you want proof...

Oh?

Nodrick

You both have antennae!

It can't be a coincidence!

Dun-dun-duuun!

.....

THAT'S your proof?!

And yet, I have the same.

He just styles his hair that way.

He's got TWO!

Oh no!

It's the NUMBER that bothers you?!

Dun-dun-duuun!

Damn! There goes my theory!

Could all THREE of them be related?

Triplets, maybe?

Could we drop the antenna issue, please?

The trees look to be almost in full bloom.

Hinomoto has dances based around spring, right? I'd love to see one!

What?!

Master of Dance Hanabusa

The pressure is making my stomach... Ooo! Where is the latrine?!

I'm so sorry!

As a fellow stomach sufferer, mine now hurts as well!

How does that even work?!

Julietta

You two are totally hopeless.

Look, when you're feeling nervous, just pretend everyone else is dragonfruit!

...What?

Yeah! It fixes everything!

spin

spin

spin

You won't give a hoot about folks peepin' at you anymore!

No one's lookin' at meeee...

stare

You are allowed ONE of those per person.

Oh no! Oh no! That dragonfruit is staring!

Notte can now change her physical size.

I can lay the hurt on fools now!

I wanna try living like everyone else without flying for a while!

Wait! If you overdo it with muscles you don't normally use...

Argh! Why are these dumb legs so shaky?!

Heh. I thought this might happen. You might want to fly for a bit and give your legs a break.

tremble

tremble

But I wanna learn to fight with my legs, too! I know I can do it!

Waaah!

You're not in any shape to do that right...

Oh no! Fiends!

tremble

RAAAWR!

Notte's in trouble! ...Er, or not?

BUMP

Whoa! Her legs are shaking so fast, they sent the fiend flying!

Whoa... I'm AWESOME! Make way for Notte the warrior!

BUMP

BUMP

Augh! Get away from me until you get this under control!

Sadly, the conditions were too specific for Notte to use her new skill in actual combat.

BUMP

Ranzal has ended up with the appearance of a child.

Ain't nothin' better than havin' yer job be PLAY!

No way... RANZAL?!

Ranzal

Ezelith

Ugh! Not Ezelith!

You really DID turn into a kid!

From that...

to THIS?!

You always treated ME like a kid, but look at you now!

Awww... Wittle Ranzal has an owie! Lemme make it better!

Lemme alone!

I can handle... Ugh!

Are ya sure ya ain't the one hurt from fightin' fiends?

sparkle

Lemme give ya one'a my favorite bandages.

It'll make it all better!

Grrr... Shove it, old man!

I use whatever I gotta!

Bwa ha ha!

This will likely be quite awkward for them when he returns to normal.

Alas, children can only think of the present.

Mercury has taken on human form and is posing as a teacher in Emile's school.

This will be a fine chance to turn the heat up on Emile.

But I must investigate the goings-on first.

Mercury

I, the board chairman, will personally teach you to draw!

You wish ME to be "it" in tag?! How dare you!

Ha ha! Now I have a pact with multiple dragons!

Emile

.....

He's getting along with the students better than I thought—perhaps because he is so childish in his thoughts.

I may have been wrong about him all this time.

He must have been through much to end up this way.

Yo, Teach!

BANG

Heavens, but I'm tired!

You may have the honor of relaxing my weary feet.

OW!

fizzle

Moxibustion

THAT'S HOT!

Hey, do you want this for your cooking?

Rock salt is always useful. Thank you.

Pietro

Yeah, I bought it because a shady merchant said it was Nevermelt Ice.

Oooh!

You're still looking for that?

You have been deceived so many times, I thought you might give up the pursuit.

Ha ha!

...Wait.

It can't be!

This salt is an exceptionally rare and flavorful variety!

Chefs the world over pay top rupie for it!

But why would someone use an expensive product as part of a con?

Guess they didn't know how valuable it is.

What a fool!

He really should stop buying false ice from strangers, but...

I'll be looking forward to more salt in the future.

Cleo! You said the wrong part out loud!

Your liege will take charge in today's battle!

Xander

And his loyal vassals shall be...

You lot there!

Summer Ranzal

Dragonyule Nefaria

Oh my.

Halloween Odetta

The hell season is it, anyway?

Yeah, this feels wrong. Why'd we come dressed like this?

You shall soon see.

Aw, crap! Look out!

...Er, or not?

Oh, dear me.

...I fear I'm not dressed for the occasion! But, umm...

The enemy's too confused to attack!

Ha HA! I call this my "Win Before It Begins" strategy! Now have at them!

You've gotta be kidding...

Silly me!

And yet, they continued using it from here onward.

Daikokuten and Luca are stranded on a deserted island.

Heeeeelp!

Why couldn't I at least be stranded with someone experienced, like Jurota or Erik?

I'm so hungry...

Boooooo!

Waaah!

Daikokuten

I mean, I've got some survival knowledge, but I can't do it all myself...

And Daikokuten might as well not be here.

Ooo, that seaweed looks yummy!

CHOMP

Ugh...

YEOWCH!

That's my EAR, man!

...Huh? Why am I glowing?

Uh oh. Sorry about that.

Yeah, see, when I bite things...

...they fill with exalted power!

FLEEEEX

Forget Erik and Jurota— I can manage this just fine.

Muscles never let you down!

Hooray!

Flex

Flex

In the end, they swam all the way back.

Quite the weapon ya got there.

What say ya let ol' Ranzal have a go with it?

Lazry

The hell?! This thing weighs a ton!

I can't even lift it!

Yeah, rokkans are way stronger than humans.

Hnnnng!

Aye, ye'll never lift it like that.

But I'll craft ye a machine to enhance your muscles!

Ramona

Daaayum! This is like swingin' a feather now!

Aye, I craft more than just weapons.

whoosh

whoosh

That's AWESOME! I want one!

Me too!

Me three!

Eventually...

DUN

DUN

Your Highness, there's something amiss with Euden's army!

DUN DUN DUUUN!

They're looking very... stiff.

I bet I could use them as curry pots.

...What?!

Leonidas

Grimnir is a young man who calls himself a god of war.

So this is the paradise wherein man and dragon dwell in harmony!

Will it distort the laws of causality forever, or be the key that brings the world salvation?

Heh.

It's great to have you, Grimnir!

Grimnir

The Halidom's become quite the tourist spot these days.

LOOK!

Oh! An ephemeral mask that grants the desire of the masses!

Welcome to the Halidom!

We got dragonfruit ice cream, too.

What an unusual sweetness!

Oh, and we're running a stamp rally in the Dragon's Roost.

My rewards will be rich beyond measure when this bastion falls under my sway...

Heavens! Is that...

fidget

twitch

Souvenirs This Way

A dragon keychain— a spoil blessed by fate itself!

jingle

It is paradise-branded!

Only a fool would turn this down!

Yeah, we got plenty of souvenir options.

Now HERE'S a guy who gets it.

Have a Halidom treat on me, friend.

It bears the mark of the dragon!

Man, this guy is SUPER fun to show around!

Heh.

Bellina

Vania has started treating Euden as a sort of brood member called a "bloodkin."

Bloodkin! My fangs ache!

You mean you're craving blood?!

Vania

Naw, I just wanna nibble on something.

Huh. Maybe she's teething?

You want to munch on my arm for a bit?

ABSOLUTELY!

Mmm... So chewy... Also, these muscles are impressive. What a good bloodkin you are!

nibble

OKAY WHAT THE HELL?!

I can't believe my darling is flirting with another!

Back off, hussy! If you want to chew on something, chew on ME!

Aww! But—

No buts! Just make with the chewing!

Ooo, this feels better than I expected...

Um, what's going on here?

I dunno...

nibble

nibble

And so, the nibble massage... thankfully d dn't catch on.

Albert

See comics #119, #140, and #141

All the kids talk about now is the ghost of Berserker.

Booooo...

We gotta get more scary stories goin' around here.

chomp

Yoink!

horf

Late-Night Snacking Ranzal

Maybe I can start one...

Huh?

Swear I had more meat here.

Did I eat it and forget?

Nah, I never forget eatin' stuff.

HISSS!

!!

Thisss is miiine...

Eee...

Sleepwalking Meat-Lover Yue

MIIINE!

EEEEEK!

What was that?!

Mmm...

It sounded like Ranzal!

And so Ranzal himself became one of the Halidom's scary stories.

Saiga once did great evil for the sake of his beloved wife.

I let myself be led astray.

I am concerned Saiga reflects on his past overmuch.

Saiga

On a journey

You're going the wrong way! Our destination is over here.

My apologies.

Once again, I let myself go astray.

sigh

You must stop drawing comparisons with your past.

Your plan was to look to the future, was it not?

You are correct.

From this point on, I will only look straight forward.

WHOOSH!

Danger: Open Pit

Saiga!

It seems I must also look down...

WHAM!

Ugh. And up as well...

MEOW!

Oh dear.

Saiga soon realized he needed to look in all directions while walking.

This armor is a precious treasure, but it don't hurt to take it for a spin sometimes.

Hmm?

tug tug

Yachiyo is now clad in armor.

I love your mask! It looks like a doggy!

Learn more about this outfit in comic #204

Hot potatoes! Who the hell are you?!

Eeek! It's just me! Sorry for surprising you...

Uh... huh...

Maribelle

Your mask is way cuter than this one, though. I want it!

Weeell...

All right, then. Let's swap 'em!

stare

Really? Oh, thank you!

Oh! Are you a new recruit? Welcome to the team!

The heck?

Never thought I'd see someone willingly put that mask on...

THE HECK?!

And so, Yachiyo unwittingly ended up as a member of Team Justice.

Karl

Linus

Us faeries might be small...

But we ARE related to dragons, ya know!

I wonder if Notte could also form a pact?

So folks could Notteshift instead of shapeshift? That sounds useless!

But also fun...

Hey, it could be useful!

It sounds SUPER useful to me!

Wait, seriously?!

NOTTE BEAM!

NOTTE BALL!

Hell, if you were Notte-sized, you could sneak into the kitchen and steal all the food you wanted!

And even if you stuff yourself, your belly's so tiny no one will miss it.

So many possibilities...

Waaah! I'd NEVER do that!

Don't believe him!

I shall inform Cleo at once.

No dinner for you.

Glaaaargh...

IT WAS A JOKE, GUYS!

Fluuuffy!

Fluuuffy!

I wanna touch those paws!

Aaah!

I NEED THIS!

Still, I can't just ask if it's okay out of nowhere...

twitch

It might make him uncomfortable.

twitch

You look restless, Euden. Is something bothering you?

PAT

Wha!

I'm happy to help if I can.

HE TOUCHED ME!

Sorry, it's just...

Paws...

I was just thinking about your paws!

Oh? Do you want me to smush your face with them?

I...

smush

Aw, you look so happy!

smush

Ahhh...

He had never been happier, in fact.

I'm off to the vegetable garden.

Do you have time to help?

Gya! Don't scare me like that!

Cleo

Why're ya dressed up like yer headed to war?

Looks mighty suspicious...

We are currently overrun with frogs.

And ya hate frogs, yeah?

Oh, now I get it! The getup's so ya won't mind having to touch 'em!

twitch

I most certainly WILL mind.

However...

rustle

Being dressed for battle sharpens my senses...

SPROING!

She knew where it was comin' from just by the rustlin' leaves?!

Holy crap!

WHOOOSH!

And I can dodge before they strike!

If I don't touch them, their damage is halved.

This is the most powerful armor around!

Why don't you wear it to fight, then...?

Sha Wujing caught word of Cleo's unnatural reflexes when in full combat gear.

HmmmMMM...

Yesss...

That equipment may indeed possess some special power.

Weapons Engineer Sha Wujing

I simply MUST test it for myself!

Storage Room

This development may prove useful to my research!

First, I'll need to borrow a set of the armor from storage...

.....

There!

click

Pah! This is nothing but standard cleaning gear!

You there, the one with glasses over a monocle! You're suspicious!

Team Justice

Get him!

Disappointing...

I have done nothing wrong and do not intend to.

What?

And yes, a hidden weapon fell from my sleeve when you grabbed me...

But I carry MANY hidden weapons! There's nothing unusual about it.

He was immediately added to the suspicious-persons list.

On a fiend hunt

Sarisse

click

click

Well, heck! It jammed!

What do you mean?

It means the ammunition is stuck inside it.

Blargh... My ears are starting to ring anyway, so I'm gonna call it a day.

Yes, manacasters ARE rather noisy.

Wish I could curl my ears into earplugs.

Perhaps you could with enough practice.

Hmm... If you trained your ears...

Hnnnng!

pant

pant

Haaah!

Apple...

CRUUUSH!

You might even be able to defeat fiends with them!

Ha ha!

Then you wouldn't need to worry about jams OR noise!

You could even use them to make apple jam!

Ha ha!

I think your BRAIN is jam, Cleo.

Uh oh. We've spent so much lately that we're almost out of money.

Then let's go beat up some gold slimes!

Why do gold and silver slimes have so many rupies, anyway?

Eh, probably steal 'em from merchants and the like.

Look! There's a whole pack of 'em!

Look, Mommy! I found a rupie!

And I found a little gem!

It's so shiny!

I'm so proud of you, dear.

Gold Slimes

We've found a LOT!

Yes, but we must ensure they all get back to the proper owners.

Yaaaay!

I can't hurt them...

Isaac became a watchman at a surprisingly young age.

Bleeding-edge news, friends!

In an attempt to be proactive, I am reporting my self-assessment: I have taken my eye off the ball and neglected to create an optimized consumer footprint!

Isaac

Sorry, what was that?

So now I'm going to rebrand my synergy and get results-oriented with your mission statement!

He's been like this ever since he took that leadership course.

Sarisse

They must've had a really eccentric teacher...

So let's be sure to incubate a diverse benchmark methodology and not have too many cooks making this stew.

Um... Wait, stew?

The Halidom does have a lot of good stew cooks...

Chances for client-portfolio diversification don't simply sprout up like mushrooms. No, uh...we must fish them from the vast sea of opportunity with our bare hands!

I...think I get it? Mushrooms are too expensive, so you'll make do with seafood instead.

But I love mushrooms...

Good thing I picked all these earlier, then!

Here!

Excellent! Now take this meat and your mushrooms, and let's synergize our respective optimal corporate infrastructures!

Aha! This must be what they call "win-win"!

Like, are you SERIOUSLY controlling that body remotely or whatever?

Nadine

Yes.

Combat Android Mascula

My heart and mind are still inside Laxi!

Laxi

That. Is. SO ADORBS!

But if I get too far from her, the signals from my heart no longer reach my body.

'Kay, slightly less adorbs.

Oh, and sometimes obstacles can block the signal.

C'mon, everyone!

Let's go!

Rex

It's bath time!

CLUNK

Linus

Uh oh. Did they block your signal thingies?

Whoops! Sorry 'bout that, bub.

Guys, we TOTALLY have to go gather those signals!

Uh... okay?

Off line

C'MERE, SIGNALS!

Back to normal

All the buildings on the castle grounds are made by dragons.

Me and my bros can build whatever you want!

Smithwyrm

One of his bros

We can make functional buildings or decorative ones! Your call!

sigh

The stuff I make looks AWESOME!

My favorites are these dracoliths. Talk about rad!

I hope folks worship a statue of ME one day...

.....

Smithwyrm Dracolith Lv. 1!

Just kidding!

Ta-daaaah!

(He only built the pedestal:)

staare

Hee hee!

Ack!

blush

Leave me be!
Why are you so grumpy?
Maybe he's hungry?
Lonely Dragon Epimetheus Longing for Love

Well then, you can start by having some milk!
I'm not hungry!
And I brought pie!
No! Listen to me!

Oh, I know! How about some stew and bread?
For the last time, I don't want food!
Heey, it's Euden!
Snow Drake

I made some flower crowns!
Here, you can all have one.
!
Wow! Thanks!

I... I was just hungry. That's all.
And these tears are because the pie was spicy!
Looks like someone had too much milk.
The pie was SPICY?!
sniff

Nino left the hidden village and set off on a journey alone.

I'm alone, but not lonely. Still...

Nino

Destination #1

Oh! It's Nino!

!

...

Raphael

Destination #2

Fancy meeting you here.

!!

...

No! Stop!

Tobias

Every time I see someone I know, I look happy to see them!

tug

tug

I'm not lonely! I'm NOT lonely!

Are you all right?

What are you doing to your cheeks?

Is this how they greet people in her village, perhaps?

Murf muuurf!

Yef, well, guff day to yurf as wellf. (Did I do that right?)

tug

twitch

? ?

Tobias left without understanding the truth.

This blessed armor speaks to me sometimes.

What? Are you feeling tired, Tobias?

Tobias

For example, it spoke to me earlier when a lance fell on my foot.

CLAANG!

Begone, pain!

Wait, you actually MEAN it?!

So your armor speaks to you whenever you need support?

Not necessarily...

SLAM!

Oww!

Hmm?

Wait...

Sorry!

Oh dear. I said "ow" out of habit when I wasn't even hurt.

?

Then the armor itself is in pain?!

My armor had a long day.

Let's let it rest in a nice, soft bed.

So I can't hear this armor of yours...

But it's clear that you ALSO need a nice, long rest.

Well, this is embarrassing...

Everyone's clothes are in a different state of disrepair.

I don't have a clue how to get some of them dry.

sigh

And to think calculations and efficiency improvement are my fortes...

Xiao Lei on Laundry Duty

Can I be of assistance?

Edward

Hmm... It's unfortunate that everyone's clothes are in different conditions, but we simply have to deal with it.

I just wish there was a way to make it easier.

Ah, but there is.

We sew cloth patches over the holes and add more cloth to any torn parts.

...What?

It's not good for clothes to be ripped.

I've lost count of how many times I've had to fix Master Luca's trousers and Master Durant's jacket.

Aw, not again!

They insist they should be left unmended to prevent from troubling me, but it's no bother.

Durant

So are you hoping they'll just give up and let you mess with their clothes if you do it enough?

Also, I just wanted to know how to best dry laundry...

?

I don't follow.

He'd never even considered that might be the case.

Xiao Lei is trying to find a way to make doing the laundry easier.

See comic #366

Wait, so Edward sews up any clothes that are difficult to dry?!

I guess that WOULD make the job easier!

My thanks.

Edward

Ha ha ha!

It isn't funny!

Vanessa

Xiao Lei

Whew! Well, I know a much easier way to handle the problem.

So funny...

!

You do?!

Please share!

This little tip will make laundry day a snap!

Reeady?

Washing Made Easy

The secret... is to decrease the surface area!

Smaller clothes = easier washing!

I'm so very sorry.

Man, it's raining like crazy!

drip

Luther

Yeah, which is bad news for me...

drip

'Cause it makes my hair do THIS!

SPROIIING!

Whoa!

Luther's hair expands when it's humid. (See comic #255)

Please don't yell.

SPROIIING!

It's perfectly normal for hair to get a bit frizzy when it's humid.

I can't even wear earrings on such days.

That's way more than "a bit"!

Cleo

What the hell?!

THAT'S what your hair does when it's humid?!

Mym!

Thank goodness! I felt like I was the only one surprised by this.

The humidity gives us all trouble, I see.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?!

Probably Mym?

Watermelon splitting is harder than I thought. Though I'd likely have no trouble if it was trying to kill me.

Hmm...

Ha-ha-ha!

Alex

Yeah, I hear ya.

We're used to workin' out what foes are gonna do from their breathin' and stuff.

Indeed.

Oh, come now! Watermelons are not our enemies.

How about this? I will lead you to the watermelon...

Huh?

And you may use my breathing as a guide!

Whenever you're ready!

Wait...

This means I must temporarily view Elisanne as an enemy!

NEVEEEEER!

SNAP!

What in the world?!

Hello, Pipple. Have you come to see me?

Is it okay for Pipple to wander the city alone?

Pipple!

Hmm? You want to help carry the shopping? That is very kind, thank you.

Pii!

Enigmatic Vegetable Pipple

I have returned!

Oh, I didn't know Pipple was with you.

I ran into him in town, and he graciously offered to assist me.

What?

Pii!

But this makes no sense...

Why not?

Because he was helping me with the cooking mere moments ago.

What?

Hmm...

And I was just playing with him in my room...

Hee hee!

Lathna

Whaaaa...?

Pipple pip?

The mystery of Pipple grows even deeper...

Look, darling!

BOOM!

crackle

The sky is full of pyroblossoms!

BANG!

Wow! So pretty...

Yes, they really are.

...

BOOM!

crackle

But I'm prettier, right? RIGHT?!

ANSWER ME!

Huh?

Uh... sure.

Where's this coming from?

You hesitated! I heard it! Well, you won't hesitate ever again once you see...THIS!

Lemme in on this action, Su Fang!

Gya! What's happening?!

Step back, pal! You're gonna see the power of a flower who can fly AND control fire!

Here I gooooo!

Pyroblossom Artisan Su Fang

That night, a dragon in swimwear danced in the sky.

*Do not try this at home.

BOOM!

BOOM!

Some say Peng Lai was disappointed not to have been invited to the show.

But I love dancing!

Peng Lai

At the Halidom, while Luca is away.

You smell like Luccy!

sniff

That's 'cause I body slammed him earlier.

Laranoa

Number 1 Luca Fan Chelsea

You reeeally smell like Luccy...

sniff

That sniffer of yers is top-rate, kid.

We're always trainin' or wrasslin' or somethin' like that.

twitch

sniff

Oh, I know!

I'm always watching you, and I'm VERY jealous.

EEEEEEEEE

whoa!

Hey, easy there!

Look, ya wanna train with us?

You mean me and Luccy... wrestling?

Sure! Once I teach ya the basics, you can wrassle the fella, too.

Seriously?

Er, but won't the size and weight difference cause prob—

ONLY I CAN WRASSLE LUCCY!

CRASH!

Sweet hell! Yer stronger'n me!

Are you okay, Ranzal?!

Urgh...

Former allies and current enemies run into one another while out shopping.

Well, lookie here!

What are YOU doing here?!

Patia

Leif

Harle

Such a pile of ingredients... Still making those nutritional drinks, are we?

You really haven't changed at all, Leif.

!!

Harle, perhaps—

Harle and Leif have known one another since they were trainee knights.

Still your tongue, dog! I will have you know he's DEFINITELY changed!

Sure, his drinks get more disgusting by the day, and we have to switch out his cooking because it's too awful to eat... (See comic #161)

But nothing makes me madder than being reminded someone's known him longer than me! So take your taunts and cram 'em where the sun don't shine!

Soft, Patia.

pant

pant

Pray calm yourself.

Er, but what was that part you said about my cooking?

Crap.

Look at all the shoreline stalls... This truly is a beach resort.

We should buy souvenirs for everyone back in Hinomoto.

Ieyasu

How does this look?

I'd forget buying new outfits if I was you.

Sazanka already had to pick up a new outfit because you're so bad at it.

Sazanka

Marishiten

Ain't nothing wrong with picking souvenirs for laughs!

What? Er, I wasn't trying to be funny.

He doesn't look happy...

Well, maybe you should! Everybody loves a funny t-shirt.

They got plenty!

I see. So perhaps like...this?

It is rather unusual.

I never expected to see a familiar face on one.

WHAT THE HECK?!

Hello there...

They don't have my permission to sell those!

No! Don't wear them! Don't stretch 'em out!

HEY! WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?!

A shame, because I already purchased it.

Hello there...

Hello there...

Nothing beats relaxing in a pool with a view of the sea...

Hmm?

Mitsuhide

Guess I'll be good so long as I got this here rubber ring Master Ieyasu gave me...

Are you scared of the sea?

Ieyasu

Addis

Aw, crap! I didn't want ya seein' me like that!

Oh, it's fine! I don't wanna go in there either.

You should do what I do and find a little pool!

Uh oh...

POP!

Noooo! My pool has a hole in iiiiit!

Oh no!

Lady Mitsuhide?!

I'll get heatstroke if I don't get an ice-cold watermelon... with the seeds removed.

Gotcha. Just hang in there!

SSSSSS...

Actually, this position feels pretty nice.

Forget the melon. I'm going to sleep.

I...I see.

During a battle with fiends

Sooo... huuungry...

rrrrumble.

Get a hold of yourself, Luca!

Would if I could, but I can't.

My stomach can't take this any longer!

rrrrumble...

rrrrumble...

rrrrumble...

It's a truly impressive sound you're making.

Got a fiend comin' yer way!

Look!

I'm so hungry, I'm hallucinating!

Ahhh...

Tasty- ooking enemies they've encountered in the past.

Ahh...

He's completely lost it!

Ooo, look! Jelly!

I'm gonna take a bite right now!

What is he doing?!

Eeep!

Calm down, ya idiot!

shake

Gimme!

shake

You'll make yourself ill!

They had a real dinner as soon as they returned to the Halidom.

It has been some time since we last gathered.

So let **the lunch meeting** begin.

Nedrick

Does anyone have anything specific they want to eat?

Me, me!

Sushi!

Ayaha

Otoha

Croque madame.

Pancakes.

Meat.

Raw meat.

Tartarus

Volk

Ciella

Kai Yan

Er, right. In that case, I'll pay for takeout and we can regroup here shortly.

Heh.

I have been waiting for this moment!

As have I.

Heh heh...

This is our chance **to finally change the Agito cafeteria menu!**

Have fun!

Now THIS was an effective **lunch meeting!**

You can say that again!

The menu is now updated every month!

Because I severed the chain of causality, people instantly forget me.

But I can use that to my advantage!

Aure... Er, Audric?

Cassandra

Audric

Might I have one of those?

Certainly.

Hmm?

Sazanka

Five minutes later...

Might I have one of those?

...Certainly.

I feel like you already asked for one...but it must have been my imagination.

What?!

Hey!

Ha ha ha!

!! How long have you been watching?

Since you started yapping about the chain of causality.

Oh. You saw it all, then...

Don't worry, dearie. I'll pretend I didn't see even a bit of it...

But I WILL write what I saw in my diary!

He likes Hinomotoan snacks very much...

Ugh!

You have no intention of forgetting, do you?!

Heh

Douleur

Leonidas and his siblings are enjoying a party on a boat.

Leonidas: The dress code for this event is swimwear!

So even if your attendance was a last-minute decision, you must respect the code!

Emilo: But I think I'm fine like this...?

Fear not. I have a backup pair of briefs.

Va va voom!

These have never been worn.

Definitely fine just as I am!

Nooope!

You know, Euden's wearing swimwear quite like your own.

It seems we have similar tastes.

I'm kind of happy to know that.

Chelle

Perhaps his backup swimwear is also a pair of briefs.

Wait, what?!

Oh!

This gives me an idea!

I shall organize a party at the castle where everyone wears briefs!

WAIT, WHAT?! What kind of party is that?!

You wear them well. You will also be invited.

I can't ever tell if you two are joking! Nooo!

Eee hee hee!

Chelle is enjoying a party on a ship.

Emile! Accompany me!

I wish to admire the waters from the bow.

Aw, why me?!

Chelle

Emile

Ahh... What a wonderful breeze.

Look out! You're gonna fall!

splash

Someone is having a purrfect lot of fun.

I'm surprised to see you so satisfied meowly by the wind.

I'm more surprised you aren't trying to have fun at all.

Cat Sith

Do you know how many sardines are in these waters?

I thought that would have interested you.

MROWR?!

I knew that would perk you up.

I'm not letting go until you catch ten for me, human!

I DON'T EVEN WANT TO BE HERE!

Ahhh!

Oh dear.

Euden has been cajoled into becoming a pop star.

Remind me again how this happened?

Okay, so I have to learn how to sing, dance, AND keep my fans happy?

I'll do my best, but...

Yay!

Idol Producer Siren

I hear you're good about keeping your fans happy, Leonidas.

Oh really!

What is this you say?

I've not heard any such thing.

Really?

Leonidas

You know! The kitten thing?

Hmm...

I still do not follow.

You will make a poor leader if you cannot explain things clearly.

Erk...

The kitten thing! The one where you grab people and stare into their eyes and say **"You're a cute little kitten!"** or whatever!

!!

This is the first I am hearing about such madness.

SERIOUSLY?!

Heart... pounding...

The truth of the rumors is in comic #305!

Gather, one and all! It's time for a curry party!

TA DAAAH!

Woooo!

Leonidas

It's been quite the eventful summer...

We found an undersea kingdom, heard legends about buried treasure...

Army Staff Officer

Loïf

And I had the fright of my life when His Excellency was stranded on a deserted island!

sigh

But the moment he returns, he starts talking about a swimwear party.

Fortunately he ended up settling for the usual curry bash instead.

Hmm, yes. We should be about ready.

Will you give it a taste test, sire?

I shall.

Déjà vu! (Comic #285)

THUD

Nooooooo! Your Excellency!

This summer just keeps on giving...

While on a trip, Heinwald and Curran learned Lathna was sad because she had no one to go to the festival with.

Lathna

I'm coming, Lathna! Hang on!

I gotta do something!

Oh dear,

Heinwald

Curran

We have to go back!

Behold!

I borrowed these **magical skating shoes** from Orsem!

Uh...

The blades have ice mana!

Orsem

I'm back, Lath—

WHAM!

...

Hello, Lathna.

Oh. Welcome back.

Uuurk...

I see you enjoyed the festival.

Yes. Cleo took me.

I'm... glad you're happy...

Please call a doctor...

Cleo is making candy apples.

Can you hook a girl up with a candy strawberry?

Of course. I've plenty of coating left over.

Yessss!

You can make candy out of all kinds of things, huh?

I can. Is there anything specific you would like?

Actually...

Pipple's been fidgeting in the shadows for a while now.

Pipplo

I am not making a candy Pipple!

Pipple pi!

twitch twitch

But he's begging you!

What about meat?

Er, perhaps not today.

Medicinal herbs!

I worry about the smell.

Fish!

Absolutely not.

Yuo

Sylas

Erik

Pleeeeeease?

NO

HEEEEELP!

Stay away from my candy coating!

Mikoto seems... different today.

sigh

That passionate gaze... Those worried sighs... Oh, I know what this is.

Mikoto

He's in love!

Wait, really? Mikoto?

I thought he was only interested in fighting and his cat, but maybe there's more to him.

I must ask a boon of you, Euden.

twitch

I wish to be paired with someone in our next battle...

Here it comes! I wonder who it is...?

Maybe it'll be Ebisu!

Meow!

It is Freyja.

Another human-dragon romance? Now I'm rooting for him even more!

Wow. I was WAY off.

What a shock!

I'm going to root for him, too!

Freyja

Much appreciated!

I should've known this was about the cats!

Freyja's cats

After he skipped the battle to play with the cats, Mikoto was never paired with Freyja again.

Cecile is a former elite knight turned mercenary.

I never used to be like this.

But now, talking to positive people really wears me down.

Do you have a moment, Cecile?

sparkle

sparkle

Cecile

Nooooo!

She's too dazzling! I'm going to melt!

I am so sorry.

Be calm, Cecile. You will not melt.

Leif

I can't handle attractive voices either... Heeeeelp...

What should we do, Leif?

She will calm down if she chews one of these.

Oh no!

Crunch

Mmmph!

There we go!

GAAASP!

You see? She's much better.

Hmm... How very peculiar.

Someone heeeeelp!

Can't beat spending yer money on grub!

munch

These gyros are the talk of the town. Glad I got me one!

munch

tap

Huh?

It must be nice to have what others lack.

Volk

You're one'a them Agito chumps!

I wanted one of those, but you got the last one...

UNFORGIVABLE!

Hands off!

Ain't my fault ya didn't snag one!

NOW...

GIVE ME A BITE!

Hey! Yer tryin' to eat the whole damn thing!

Look, darling! Ranzal's sharing his food!

Ahhhh!

Huh?

I want to do that with our wedding cake!

It's rather a surprise to see you in such light garb, Leif.

You look quite dashing.

You flatter me, Princess.

But I thank you for it.

Cecile

Chelle

Leif

It has been some time since the three of us were last together.

Perhaps we should celebrate with some tea.

A fine idea!

Ugh...

Well then, I'd best hop to it!

BOING!

Sproing!

Goodness!

I never thought I'd live to see the day where Leif was skipping.

He's not. The guy's just not used to how light he is without his armor on.

Huh?

See? Off he goes.

Oh my!

I'm light as a feather!

How heavy WAS his old armor...?

This ain't good...

Leif! Get down here at once!

Victor gave me some funny glasses!

I'd sealed them away, but rumors managed to spread regardless.

※ See comic #145

Oh?

Ramiel

Victor

Nevin

Oh ho!

Heh. They look surprisingly good on you.

Okay, let Papa Bear try one of 'em.

This is great! I can't see a thing!

And the truth is...

I don't WANT to see!

Ha ha!

Hmmmmm?

Today is your monthly room inspection.

How can you not see what a pigsty this is?

Looks fine to me!

Disssss...

...gusting!

Nevin's Filthy Room (CENSORED)

You mustn't turn your eyes from the truth.

I ain't turning 'em. I just can't see.

squeeeze

Oh, that's how it's going to be, is it?

Fearing the trouble they bring, Victor sealed his glasses away once more.

This is Styx's restaurant.

Welcome, hon.

clatter

clatter

Got some delicious milk in today.

Dragons like to come here and drown their sorrows with a cold glass.

Styx

I can't believe it...

Little Pi is going through a rebellious phase!

Waaah!

Little... Pi?

Just a sylvan this one here raised.

Gabriel

Seriously?

She won't take baths with me or even call me Mama anymore...

I just... I don't...

sob

sob

You silly goose!

Stop waiting on your daughter to listen, and start waiting on our guests!

WAIT, WHAT?!

hee hee

Okay, Little Pi... Looks like Mama's gonna work her tail off to be the best hostess ever!

sniff...

Remember that she's watching you, so you'd better give it your all!

Hey, uh... Is Little Pi even real?

I came to pick up Gabriel, but I think I'll just back away slowly...

Pinon (aka Little Pi)

Grace is disguised in the outfit she wore while with the Syndicate.

I seek to save everyone who met with misfortune from our research...

Therefore, I am going to the Syndicate's secret base to stop their unethical human experimentation.

Grace

So that sword's a memento from your husband, yeah?

Yes. We imbued it with the fruits of our research so we might atone for our deeds.

I'll bring it in with me by passing it off as a self-defense tool.

!

Bellina

Ruffian

Even though that's just a cover story, somehow **I feel like it's really protecting me.**

ZAP!

Yeah, I can tell it is.

You understand?

Have dinner with me!

ZAP!

Yep, your husband's feelings are plain as day.

ZAP!

Lochor

No, me!

Lochor

He must have put that in without telling you.

Yeesh...

Ah, but you are too kind...

Farren was given an artificial ability to fuse with dragons.

Lil' Barb: Are you ready, Lil' Barb?!

Farren: Sure thing, bub.

"WYRMBINDING... ACTIVAAATE!"

Team Farren: 1, Team Fiend: 0!

WOOO!

Take that, suckers!

You two really are a perfect pair, huh?

Yep. He's my partner through thick and thin.

Well, I think it's time for a break. I brought a whole pile of pies!

Yesss! Time to chow down!

Hell yeah! Gimme the goods!

gleam

CHOMP!

Oh, but I ordered the apple pie especially for me, so don't touch that one.

Uh... Ya mean... this apple pie?

Oh no! I'm so sorry, Luca!

Nooooo...

A mistake of Lil' Barb's is a mistake of mine...

So I'll just eat the other half!

That way you can be mad at me, too!

Uhhh...

GIVE IT BACK!

CHOMP!

Catherine has come to visit the Halidom.

Good day. Thank you for having me.

Welcome, Lady Catherine. Please come this way.

Butler

Edward

Catherine

Your tea, madam.

Hmph!

Bodyguards

Oh, I'm so terribly sorry.

It is their charge to look after me, you see.

Not at all.

I shall be the perfect host until your meeting begins.

Whoosh!

Now please relax and enjoy your...

...tea?

Begging your pardon, young sir. I was merely tasting it for poison.

Egads...

How can someone his age outpace me?!

Our flour has been running out unusually quickly of late.

If this keeps up, we'll have to cut down on toast for breakfast.

Hmmm...

Oh! Actually, I think that's maybe my fault or whatever?

See, 'cause pancakes are, like, my jam right now.

Ta-daaah!

Nadine

YOU did this!

Next time, ask permission to use our ingredients! Until then, this cookware is confiscated.

Like, noooo! My cookware!

Girl, you're a total fun burglar!

Yoink!

And you need to learn some constraint!

BOOOO!

The next day...

I don't need to measure precisely anyway, I've got this down!

I found a bowl. And, like, this fork?

I better hurry before Cleo goes totally apecrap on me...

Sploosh!

Uh... Was that too much milk?

FLOUR

I'll just fix it with a smidge of flour...

Aw, man! Now it's dry as a bone or... whatever else is really dry.

shake shake

goosh

Better use more milk...

Oh geez! That's so much!

Welp, it's the last time, so whatever. Time for a picture!

Flash!

Nadine was later seen sowing wheat in the garden under Cleo's strict supervision.

Thanks for a great three years

of Dragalia Lost and Dragalia Life!

Wait, huh?!

The hell happened to the party?!

This was supposed to be it!

Grrr! How dare you interfere with my darling's special day!

Now just...

rumble

rumble

Augh!

BUZZ OFF ALREADY!

I can tackle fiends and party prep at the same time!

ROOOAR!

Eeep! Calm down, Mym!

Don't stop me, darling!

crackle

By carefully adjusting my output, I can roast this to perfection!

FWOOMP!

Collateral Damage

sizzle

Ack!

Darling, speak to me!

Oh, geez...

Mmm, this chicken smells great!

Impressive, but, uh... a bit violent...

shiver

Here's to more years to come!

sizzle

Bath Lover Kagutsuchi

Whoops! Somebody's in here already.

Don't be shy, friend! Come. Enter the waters.

Sure, just one sec...

sploosh

Whoa!

100
90
80
70
60

Sorry, pal, but I'll be boiled like a Dragonyule ham if I hop in there.

Ah, I see. Then I will take my leave.

Hey, hold up a tick. Ol' Ranzal just had himself an idea...

?

My blood tends to run quite hot, you see.

Uhhh... what's with the pose?

I am a sauna for the human who could not enter the water.

I FEEL ALIIIIIVE!

Regina is a researcher and alchemist, and commander of the northern Ilian Church apostles.

You there. Would you care to be my test subject?

No way, sister! Go find yourself some other lab rat to try your alchemy on!

Regina

Oh, no, not for that.

I'm trying to find different uses for honey.

I need you to slather it on your face and tell me if it has any moisturizing effects.

Wait, is that all? Gimme!

splat

So are you just into honey or what?

gloop

Yes, I'm quite fond of it.

Someone I know was particularly eager for me to try it.

You'll know who in a moment.

I smell honey.

Whoa! You really know each other's habits...

Sandalphon

My analysis is that we are making dinner preparations.

Merely testing out some new moisturizer.

staaaare

Yikes!

I'm gonna sweat all this honey clean off!

Behold the REAL Harle!

TA-DAAAH!

Wait, what?!

Yer tellin' me the Harle we knew this whole time was a damn fake?!

Indeed!

Yes, it's true— but now I'm on YOUR side forever!

Harle

At least until I get my hands on the people who put me through this ordeal...

Regardless, I look forward to working with you.

Heh heh...

Yer just as shady as the fake Harle!

Look, boss. I know we're teamin' up with this cat, but don't trust him more than you have to, 'kay?

whisper

whisper

I'll uh... try my best...

gulp

Oh ho! What's all this?

If you truly find me so suspicious, why don't you monitor me?

From that moment on, they were inseparable.

Zzz...

Not even a nibble...

At this rate I'm gonna end up bein' yer friend...

Nnngh...

Ah, no.

I'm afraid I'll pass on that.

WHY, YA LITTLE—

When my sister came back from another world, she had changed.

Zethia

Whoa... Bahamut made her all mature and grown-up!

Because of me!

Bahamut

Kinda makes me miss when she fell out of that tree and pretended she'd planned it.

※ See comic 4

Oh, you...

Oh, this chick fell out of its nest.

This is just like before!

cheep cheep

Or...not? Look at how calmly she got it to the nest.

Look how she's floating down!

She really is different.

whoosh

I'm honestly not sure how to feel...

Blargh!

Huh?!

This was planned! I just thought you wanted to see it again.

I absolutely meant to do that.

Ta-daah!

10

10

This is the traitorous apostle Basileus. In a quest for revenge, he betrayed his own kind by aiding in the resurrection of Satan.

Michael

Basileus

However, he and his co-conspirator Michael have been allowed to continue their work as apostles.

I won't pretend to understand right or wrong now.

If you wish to hate me, so be it. I will accept any punishment you see fit.

And I as well.

Urgh... I know what you went through, so it's REALLY hard to be mad at you!

But you did hurt a lot of people.

I'll be the one to do it!

I am prepared.

BEHOLD MY FLUFFY FURY!

biff

?!

You wanna pet 'em, don't you? Well, you can't! That's your punishment!

biff

biff

Nnngh! What manner of cruel and unusual punishment IS this?!

Punish me next!

biff

biff

biff

Sandalphon has the ability to communicate with the Five Archangels.

Hearken to my voice.

Honey is highly nutritious and can be used in all manner of cooking. It is truly the greatest of superfoods.

Sandalphon

Oh, hey! Sandalphon's transmitting another message about honey!

Honey? I guess she CAN talk about things other than work...

But you have to listen, right? Doesn't that bother you?

Oh, not at all... Because this is a declaration of war!

Raphael

Ryszarda

I like chocolate, *Sandalphon!*

※Telepathy

Hmm. That must be Raphael.

It's great for replenishing nutrients on long journeys AND it's delicious!

Yes, I suppose chocolate is also effective.

※Telepathy

They've got something going on but it's all silent...

Oh, don't worry!

They're just debating **which sweets are best before snack time.**

Well, you seem happy. Did we decide what we're doing for snacks today?

Indeed.

Chocolate dipped in honey.

Whoa, she looks happy!

Regina

Pinon

Whatcha up to, Sarisse?

Oh, just trying out some new ideas for fletching.

Different arrow feathers make 'em fly in different ways.

Sarisse

Like so!

Whoosh

THUNK

Whoooa! How cool is that?!

I'm gonna make this next one fly straighter...

Okay, you have fun with that.

Whoopsie!

THWACK

Uhhh... just where I was aiming!

Like hell it was!

The top bunk is mine!

No, it's mine!

Karl

Linus

RRRRGH!

punch

clobber

Stop this at once!

Why in the Goddess' name do you both want to sleep on the top bunk so badly?

Also, who fights inside a dust cloud?

Because!

The top bunk is the perfect vantage point to rain justice upon any who might threaten us!

Gasp!

But... that's the same reason I wanted it.

I suppose we should work together then.

Meaning?

From now on, we'll sleep side by side!

No need to fight... if our hearts are aligned!

Mmmrf!

Our souls... burn with justice!

They really should just take turns...

creeeak

But Elisanne kept her opinion to herself.

One day, Beren happened on a poster for a local theater production.

Hmm... A play might be nice.

Sylas

Laxi

Coming Soon!

Beren

Perhaps I'll go to the rehearsal.

But there's no telling who'll be there. I'd better wear a disguise.

Before the rehearsal...

Ack! It's Beren!

Well, that didn't take long.

gasp

No, wait... Beren doesn't have cat ears...

Staff

Er, or not?

Well, whoever you are, you're not supposed to be here unless you're part of the play.

Ahem.

Or maybe you're a trickster who snuck in on purpose.

Did you lose your mommy, little boy?

I mean, it'IS Halloween, after all...

21 Years Old

AHEM.

I don't have any connection with the play, but I do with YOU. Also, I'm older than you!

AAAHHH!

I KNEW IT WAS YOOOOU!

In the end, he didn't get to see the rehearsal.

Trick mode activated.
Trick and trick.
▷Wow! You're so Halloween-ish!◁
Laxi the Android
Mascula, Who Lives in Laxi

I will shut down my other modes for now.
Then I can enjoy this event to the fullest.
Luccy! Please accept **my Lovey-Dovey Annihilation Mode!**
IT'S TRICK AND TRICK!
pant
pant
Chelsea
▷Buh?!◁

GIMME ALL YOUR MEAT!
AROOOOOO!!
TREAT AND TREAT!
Cripes! It's Yue's **Meaty Annihilation Mode!**
Nooo! Not the food!
Yue
!!

Large quantities of Laxi-wannabes detected.
Are they all trick-and-tricking me?
Grrrooo
▷Laxi, no! Don't change modes!◁

I am pranking them back.
Initiating rain of wet toilet paper!
▷Oh, it's a PRANK! I thought you were going to seriously injure someone.◁
Phew!

I decided to come to this Halloween party, but...

I have no idea what to do.

I can teach you about it if you want.

Ask me anything!

Lowen

Sylas

Heck, Garuda and I were just practicing our trick-or-treating!

I don't think I'm cut out for this...

Aw, c'mon! They give you tons of candy when you do this!

Er...

I expect that works because of YOU, Lowen.

Garuda

I insisted the same, but he simply refuses to listen.

And I can't resist his adorable mannerisms...

That explains why you're as red as a flame goblin.

I can sympathize.

I'm as red as a DRAGON, jerk!

bi u s h

Do you not want to practice trick-or-treating with me, Sylas...?

Sniff

Well, I never said that...

Yaaaay! Then let's all go trick-or-treating around the castle later!

Urk...

Give me candy or burn.

I'll blow your house down!

No threats! Just tricks!

ACK!

Aurelius and Gatov exchanged letters for many years.

Aurelius

Gatov

But one day, Aurelius was struck with worry.

Perhaps my letters sound too uptight.

Dear Gatty... Wow! You awe such a hawd worker! I hope it doesn't wain tomowwow!

Maybe I should write to him like I talk to my children...

Hmm...

Gatov was very concerned upon receiving the letter.

Buh?!

Has Aurelius suffered some sort of personality-changing head injury?!

AURELIUS! Are you well?!

Whooosh!

Quite well, thank you? Ah, this must be about my letter.

Well, that is a relief— even if I DID have to come running all this way...

My apologies.

Perhaps it is best for me to stick to my old ways...

Oh, what do you think of my new curry recipe? Try some!

It's just what my body needs after all that running...

munch

munch

Hmm? Who is that man?

I really am sorry...

Leonidas

Feeling fancy, Jupiter has taken a human form.

Sometimes a dragon just wants to have tea at a fancy cafe.

Why am I stuck payin' for everything here...?

Jupiter

Wait, yer appetite's still dragon-sized?!

La la la!

Thanks for the meal! Let's go shopping next!

shudder

WHAT?!

You ain't even thinkin' about how much coin yer droppin' here, pal!

You already blew the budget, **so we're going home!**

Aw, whaaaat?

You poor thing. There's more to life than rupies, you know?

One must listen to their HEART when it comes to what to eat and wear.

Uh...

And there's one veeery important thing you need to listen to a heart...

And that...

...IS RUPIEEEEES!

Now buy me this too.

THE HELL IS YER PROBLEM?!

Now, let us begin the second Dragon Conference!

Jeanne d'Arc

Ooo! What are we gonna eat this time?

After our last conference's failure, eating has been banned.

Zzz...

wiggle

wiggle

※See comic 162

Polo

Moon Drake

Aw, whaaat?!

If you wish to eat, do it after the meeting!

Now, for today's agenda...

Grumble...

Grumble...

Grumble...

Grumble...

Well, I suppose one can't fight on an empty stomach.

No, I suppose not...

Let's start with a tea party next time!

munch

munch

boom
boom
Are those taiko drums I hear?
Sylas

You all seem to be having fun.
boom
boom
'sup! It's fun AND good training! Wanna try?
Yaten's lettin' us take these puppies for a spin!
wham
No thank you. I'm off to find more medicinal herbs.
Yaten

Oh, that's right. Ol' Sylas here can't lift anything heavier than a wooden pestle.
Seriously?
I'll thank you not to tell such bold-faced lies.
That isn't true, Ranzal.

Besides, I can play taiko drums far better than Luca!
Okay, NOW we're talkin'!
Let's get this party started!

He whaled on that drum so hard, he can't even lift a fork.
Grr...
Heeere comes the dragon!
C'mon, I know you love strawberries!
Poor thing...
You will burn for this.

This is the Blazewolf Gatov, a former mercenary and old friend of Aurelius.

Your daughter Sheila's body is similar to my darling's, right?

There's much we could teach each other!

Perhaps you're right.

Gatov

And though you're slightly off on the details, Hmm.

I see no harm in learning more about each other.

Would you two be okay with that?

nod

Sheila

Then let us begin. Unlike the Prince, Sheila does not need sleep.

So when I'm busy early in the morning, she helps me do my hair. She's a remarkable child.

Wow, that's a HUGE difference!

You two really get along, huh?

Indeed. Aurelius and I used to brag about our children in our letters.

Aurelius

Sheila's a true talent. She can do anything, no matter the field!

She is perfect in every way.

Really?!

Hey! We were supposed to exchange info, and you just gushed about your kid!

Well, TWO can play at that game!

Heh heh

Oh? Then let's see what you've got.

Uh oh. The floodgates are open now...

What a charming outfit, Nevin!

Yep! This baby's **made for cold weather.**

Figured I'd get myself an early Dragonyule gift.

It's good for the cold? But it looks so light...

Nevin (Who Surprisingly Runs Cold)

But it's got POCKET HEATERS!

TA-DAAAAAH!

THAT'S how it's "made for cold weather"?!

You could just wear more layers, you know...

No way. This is stylin' and you know it.

Heh.

He's actually using fewer pocket warmers than he used to.

I'm proud of how far he's come.

Is that...?

GASP!

It's...

IT'S HIM!

The Father-like Shadow! ...Or at least that's what we call him at the Halidom.

Huh? Father-like? But I AM a father.

Ramiel's got a weird nickname at the Halidom...

Ramiel

I'm glad you're doing better with the cold, but remember to warm your neck too.

C'mon, stop it!

If you keep it up...

NICKNAME NUMBER TWO: THE DOTING DADDY!

wrap

wrap

Ugh. Too late now...

Much has happened... and now Ilia has invented the snowboard.

We're here and it's snowing, so might as well make the most of it!

Huzzah! Now we can travel long distances without hurting our behinds!

You truly are a genius, Ilia.

Mordecai

Ilia

WOOOOO!

Whoosh

Say, Ilia?

I have a hankering for a bowl of curry.

Whoa! That's wild! I was just thinking the same thing.

And I know JUST the guy to help us.

clatter

Wait for me!

clatter

Now see here! We have a door!

Leonidas

Oh, but Leonidas's curry is to die for!

Naturally. Now then, how has the journey been treating you?

Been pretty rough, actually.

munch

munch

munch

I am sorry to hear that.

Anyway, let's both keep up the good work!

Thanks for the awesome grub!

Byeee!

Next time, I will get another order to go.

Oh, for the love of... USE THE DOOR!

Hey, Skate boy. You seen my dogs lately?

You mean those wolves you always have with you?

Orsem

Durant

'Cause if so, they're skating on the rink I made!

TA-DAAAH!

Wheee!

Atoooo!

Oh, you gotta be KIDDIN' me!

You already played today, ya mutts! Time to go home!

RRRGH!

Aw, don't be mad. Why not strap on some skates and join in the fun?

Here!

Like hell I will! ...I said get back here, ya mutts!

Wheee!

Wheee!

Why, you little...

WAAAAUGH!

WHAM!

Just to be clear, I'm only doing this so I don't fall on my face again.

Grrr...

Yeah, yeah. Gotta use the right tool for the job!

Here you are!

GLEAM

Gimme those— and quit with the grinnin' already!

Shoulder pads are currently all the rage at the Halidom.

Yuya

Melody

Catherine

I simply don't feel right without them.

Hee!

Oh, I know.

I want even BIGGER shoulders, ya dig?

I'm baaaa— **WHAT THE HECK?!**

Oh! Welcome back!

Those weak shoulders make ya look like a real turkey, Slick!

Back from an exped tion.

You should look into getting larger shoulders, Master.

Yeaaah, actually I think I'm...

Oh ho!

Peng Lai

whooosh

You all look so easy to carry now!

GIMME THOSE SHOULDERS, BABY!

The flight I always dreamed of...

(See comic #277)

These devilish imps are Ayaha and Otoha.

Just looking at this castle makes me wanna destroy it! Right, Oto?

Hee hee!

Heh-heh! It makes me wanna blow it to smithereens, Aya!

Aaaall right, buckos! That's enough of that!

Ayaha

Otoha

The former Notte Ball is now... THE NOTTE BEATDOWN!

WHIRR

Gya! What's with this prickly thing?!

Get outta our way!

Er...

My apologies, but might you take your little spat elsewhere?

All of this ruckus will scare away the fish for tonight's supper.

Wait. Fish? For dinner?

gasp

You mean like sushi?!

Musashi

Well, I GUESS we can wait if it means we get sushi out of it. Right, Aya?

We sure can, Oto!

Looks like they forgot all about the castle. Now let's see what they do...

No wasabi! Oh, and I want custard for dessert!

Heh heh heh!

And if you get it wrong, we'll tear your castle apart!

Eee hee hee!

NOTTE BEATDOWN, ENGAGE!

I heard you got a Qilin master!

I certainly do! You have one too, right?

Yep! But my master's a cut above all the other Qilin.

Maooo...

Mao Mao | Lin You | Wu Kong

Well, MY master is pretty great as well.

Mao!

Sure, but... My master's the chosen sealer of ancient Qilin artifacts!

Ha!

Well, no matter how amazing the master, it's still up to the disciple to actually succeed.

M... Mao...

Well...

Mao!

Wait, are you saying I'm a bad disciple?!

MAO!

MAO MAO! (I'll share my meat bun with you!)

Mao mao! (Just stop fighting already.)

TA-DAAAH!

So... cute...

Er, right. Sorry for getting so heated.

So...cute... Uh, I mean, yes. I am also sorry. Say, do you want to give Mao Mao a pet?

Mao mao! (Okay, but just for today!)

Mao...

Oh my! It's not every day we see YOU at the Halidom.

This is your first Dragonyule here, yes? In that case, why don't I show you around?

I fear I lack the time for frivolity.

The Alluring Sniper, Malora

Mr. Serious, Valyx

You didn't come all this way just to sit at a desk, right?

This is a festival. Relax! Let that lovely hair of yours down for...

Hmm? What's that?

This?

I have a handkerchief that was crafted for me by one of my subordinates. The children here love it.

I worked until nightfall trying to create a similar one, but alas...

THWACK!

Oh no... Quick, change into this!

Why?

If you don't neutralize your charm, it will put everyone in danger.

(See comic #182)

?

Later...

Whoa! Did Malora do this to you, Valyx?!

Wait, no... Valyx is doing it to her!

That's a super-rare sight!

Helping out

I can hear you, you know!

Sweet mother'a cabbage! Now Volk's a beast in the Dragon's Roost!

I brought him home with me!

Ranzaaaaal!

Gya!

Beast Volk

WELL, TAKE HIM BACK!

So I guess he's not the real guy?

Boss says he's "vestigial" or somethin'?

Ranzaaalll...

This dude's got me in his sights even more than the man himself...

Now, now...

I'm so sorry!

The Real Volk

I messed up again... SHE'S GONNA BLOW!

Uh oh. This feels like...

If you get caught up in it, you and Ranzal will turn into kids!

BOOOOM!

Aaagh!

Sinoa

Five seconds later...

Dammit! Why only me?!

Wanzal?

cough

Oh, cripes. VOLK'S a kid too?!

I'm so sorry...

Well, I guess he can stay if he got all that rage outta his system.

monch

Wanzal!

Yeah, 'course he didn't.

Guess he still recognizes me...

spin

spin

HAPPY...

NEW YEAR!

Must be tough to balance that ball thingie on an umbrella!

Whoa!

Will that pointy ball not poke holes in your parasol?

Neat!

How do you do it, Highness?

I'll never tell!

Hey, gang! I brought taiyaki!

Get 'em while they're hot!

Oooo!

Get one for me!

SHING!

I'll eat it later!

?!

THE HELL IS THAT THING?!

Huh?! What thing?! Where?!

No, Notte! If you stop, people will know you're just running on my umbrella!

Here's to another great year!

Meet Shingen, one of the 12 Wyrmclan leaders.

I heard ya never take that helmet off in front'a folks, even at a hot spring. That true?

It is.

This helm is part of my identity.

Shingen

When alone, I take off my helmet, but not my armor.

Wait, seriously? Whyzzat?

Fudo Myo-o told me I must always wear at least one of the two.

...

Permit me to explain.

Fudo Myo-o

I have placed **a small number** of **protective charms** on his helmet and armor.

So long as these remain on his person, Lord Shingen will be safe.

*Inside the gauntlets

SAFE! SAFE! SAFE! SAFE! SAFE! SAFE!

THAT'S a small number?!

This getup looks pretty cursed to me!

Ha ha! I thought it was just a hobby of hers.

You didn't even ASK what they were for?!

Heh.

SO DAMN SPOOKY!

Maybe folks just get more trustin' in old age...

Lord Shingen is 30.

SO DAMN YOUNG!

And his favorite food is abalone pickled in soy sauce.

SO DAMN SALTY!

Eventually Ranzal went hoarse from screaming.

Meet Yukimura, a wyrmclan leader with guts and grit!

Yukimura

Putting on a headband totally FIRES ME UP!

WOW! So that's where you get your energy!

Is it hard for you to get things done without it?

YEAAAAH!

Juliette

Heck no!

My spirit's always burning—the headband just makes it burn BRIGHTER!

And when my blood REALLY gets boiling, I can overcome all my limits!

And when I do that...

YOU GET THIIIIS!

HARDCORE!

Your appearance changes?!

You're a transforming warrior!

Goodness!

Does that mean you have a fancy special move?!

Oh, **I for SURE have special moves. Check this puppy out!**

Headbutt!!!

WHAM!

That's not fancy at all!

Izumo is a young boy who lives at the Hinomotoan court and is unfamiliar with the ways of the world.

Lady Amaterasu bestowed many powers upon me.

Question!

Ding!

Izumo

Yes? What is it?

Can I guess what kinda powers they are?!

Er... sure.

You can pull out any food you want at any time!

No.

You always know where apple trees are!

That's not even a thi—

GASP!

Is he actually hoping for **me to respond with a witty retort?**

gulp

Rrrgh! This is hard!

...Okay. I'll show you a correct answer.

This power is used in urgent situations.

It's called... teleportation.

Sorry...

I'm out.

Oh, that's the dealie you used to take us to Hino...

Hey, where'd he go?!

Unable to think up a witty retort, Izumo fled the scene.

We decided to hold a mochi-breaking ceremony!

snap

Folks say breaking open brittle mochi on New Year's brings good health!

And you KNOW we're gonna be dressed for the occasion.

My latest obsession is **mochi dipped in wasabi and soy sauce.**

I'm gonna change to grown-up form and try it with **extra wasabi!**

poof!

munch

Just 'cause yer all growed-up don't make spicy stuff any less spicy.

Kuzunoha

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT SOONER?!

SPIIIICE

Sweet slop buckets! Gozu, we need tea right the heck now!

At once!

shiver

Gozu Tenno

Hoooo... Gosh, I feel so calm now...

Aaah

It really is calming...

Aaah

Indeed.

Aaah

Seimei

Jurota

Aw, look! Yer tea turned 'em into cute lil' mochi balls!

We're supposed to be getting rid of our mochi, not adding to it!

Sooo caaalm...

Xuan Zang left these two behind, and they're now in hot pursuit of her.

Xuan Zang is gone!

She got us good this time...

Oh, she couldn't have gotten far...

Don't follow me.

Xuan Zang

Right then. After her!

Zhu Bajie

Sha Wujing

Watch your step.

Naturally.

Slowly...

.....

Slooooowly...

UGH! THIS IS TAKIN' FOREVER!

Ack!

Now, now! Do not handle me so roughly or I will drop—

FWIP!

Boink!

The hell is that?!

Nooooo!

My secret weapons!

BLAM!

WHAM!

Boink!

Boink!

Hang on... That's the stuff that paralyzes you if ya breathe it in, right?

XUAN ZAAAAAANG! RUUUUUN!

I CAN'T STOOOOOP!

BLAM!

Stay away from me, idiots!

KABOOM!

Hey, Su Fang!
How are the pyroblossoms coming?
You've got this!
Euden after comic #415
Peng Lai
Whoooosh
Very well, then— Whoa! Your shoulders!
Su Fang

Many claim shoulders of great ambit to be both "hip" and "happening" at the moment.
Whoooosh
Oh, for absolutes! Like, you should plop some shoulders on your pyroblossoms or whatever and totally fancy 'em up.
Zip!
Zip!
I don't think pyroblossoms HAVE shoulders!
Nefaria
Nadine

Shoulders attached.
Are these shoulders?
Marry, but it is fair indeed!
I...guess?
Or ears?
Bring it in so I can snap a pic!
poke

KABOOM!!
Eeek!
Whoa! The heck was that?! I'm takin' a look!
Yuya

Perhaps we should put a cork in the whole "wide shoulders" craze.
Yeeeah... Sorry...
YOOOO! You turkeys' hair is ACES! I'm gonna do it too!
And that is how singed hair became the new craze...

Due to...certain circumstances, Emile is hiding out downtown.

I can pull off any look with GLORIOUS ease.

I'm just so perfect!

Ha ha!

I picked it out.

Emile

Humanoid Mercury

You'll need to borrow tools to do your laundry.

EX-CUSE YOU?!

I am the great Emperor Emile! I do not know how to magic the grime out of clothes or... however you do it!

Then it's time you learned.

Damn it all! Why should I have to...

Let's see. First, I need a pinch of bubble herb...

BUBBLE HERB?!

Laundry 101

grrr

Oh! Wow! It really does make bubbles!

bubble

With foam this plentiful, I could easily mold it to my liking...

.....

bubble

Heavens! Sometimes my talent scares me a little.

bubble

Mercury

He never did finish the laundry.

bubble

While exterminating fiends in a cave...

SHINE!

The fiends are gathering around the light! Let's take 'em out!

Let my beauty show the way!

Zardin's makeup shines bright!

We clearly brought the right man for the job!

Indeed we did, sir.

The glare of that mirror can attack in all directions at once.

No! My precious mirror!

CRACK

Oh no! Not now!

Edward

Edward! Though not a perfect solution, I fear it is time to enact... Plan B.

Wait, what?!

Good heavens.

Very good, sir. I shall give it my all.

THOSE two are working together?!

?!

PEW PEW PEW!

They're using Edward's glasses instead of the mirror!

Right!

Left!

PEW PEW PEW PEW!

Right!

Ah, I'm just as stunning in the reflection of your spectacles!

Nothing is impossible for a butler.

I feel like this is ridiculously pointless, **BUT I LOVE IT!**

Valyx has taken an interest in the Halidom where Alberius once lived.

Who wants a tour of the castle?!

I was not aware that was an option. Perhaps I shall try it.

Valyx

It's not even your first time here, but you still want a tour?

You must really love it!

Changed clothes

I fear I was unable to take my time and appreciate it before.

And now, the moment you've been waiting for... the stick-your-head-through-a-hole-for-a-photo dealie!

A picture with the Windwyrm?

We've also got, like, photos and printouts and junk! You're gonna look TOTES rad.

TA-DAAAH!

Welcome!

Nadine

Why not have your picture taken while you're here?

Hmm?!

Shove

Well, I suppose one wouldn't hurt...

Come on dooown!

How could you abandon me for a photo with the Windwyrm?!

It's...it's not what you think!

I gotta get a shot of this!

Oh dear...

Valyx's Pactwyrm
Thor

Can I talk to you for a second, Phares?

Oh, you're doing research. Never mind. It can wait.

No need. I was merely reading a collection of your poems.

Phares

WHAAAAAAT?!

Where did you find those?!

They were quite good. I especially enjoyed the part about howling at the full moon.

DON'T TELL ME YOUR OPINIONS!

Pfft! What a fine hobby you have, dear brother! Haw haw haw~

Your Ultimate Self-Portrait Collection is quite good as well, Emile. When will these be put on display?

NOOOOO!

Emile

It is a fine thing to pursue one's interests!

I, for example, have tried using my beloved **cat accessories** to improve morale.

You... like cats?

I even tried donning **cat ears and a tail,** but alas, it did nothing.

sigh

Since I couldn't see it myself, there was little point— **though my subordinates seemed quite surprised!**

You should've explained yourself!

Just before Valentine's Day

Two people scheme together at an inn.

Ezelith

Melody

Tomorrow, the most popular chocolate around will be available at the Nina Shop.

I'll stock anything that sells!

Nina

You can't reserve these puppies, so we're staying at a place nearby!

We've gotta get there the second the sun rises, so I'm not sleeping at ALL!

YAAAY! WE DID IT!

Our Valentine's Day prep is done!

Now to go back to my lodgings and sleep.

Soooo tired...

Hold on! We still need to do some practice swings!

The heck does THAT mean?!

We must practice handing over chocolates so we know we can do it no matter how nervous we are.

That's a genius idea!

Of course it is! It came from me!

fwish

fwish

Later...

Wait, so you were half asleep and yer arm moved on its own and gave some stranger the chocolate?

It's because I'm such a genius...

sniffle sob

Bein' smart must be tough.

Is it true you will be joining us on our long and treacherous journey, Nina?

Indeed I will! I'm able to use magic and fight now, you see.

Shopkeeper Nina

I've built up stamina from hauling items every day, and can keep fiends away with some of my scarier merch.

Huzzah!

Well, it certainly sounds like we can count on you!

That said, constant travel and fighting often makes a person tired.

You should bring **something along that can perk you up** when you need it.

Find something... to perk me up... Thank you, Elisanne!

scribble scribble

Days later

Elisanne! What the heck have you been teaching Nina?!

SLAM!

Eeek! Why, what happened?

Every time we take a break from battle, she starts petting **something...**

Irfan

Turns out it's gold crystals that increase your EXP!

So sparkly... This will help my business...

Hee hee!

This is far more than a simple perking up, Nina!

Inquisitors are folks who learn if Church people hold any **heretical beefs!**

Tee hee! I'm pretending to be Curran!

Okay, now LATHNA'S messing up her words?!

Lathna

Curran

Lathna has started to mimic me for fun, apparently.

Maybe just try NOT screwing up everything you say?

Really now.

You're a terrible influence on the poor girl.

Heinwald

Cram it, Heinwald!

It ain't like you're any better!

Heh Of course I am—I'm not YOU.

Heinwald! Heinwald! Do the thing!

The usual? Of course.

Hup!

whoosh

KER-THWAP!

Eeee!

She's playing with you too, y'know! Though I admit she can't exactly mimic that...

Heinwald can use his hair to pick up books. (see comic #79)

Look! Look! I'm Heinwald!

Would you quit teachin' her tiered wicks **already?!**

Tiered wicks! Hee hee! **Heeee hee hee hee!**

whoosh

KER-THWAP!

In the end, they both proved to be terrible influences.

Yuya's helping out in the kitchen today.

If you pound a steak like so, it becomes tender.

Hot beans, sister! You really know your stuff!

tap tap tap

Yuya

But all that work seems like a pain, yeah?

Mind if I use this puppy instead?

WHAT ON EARTH?!

Take this, slick!

WHAM! WHAM! WHAM!

Yuya, stop! That's too much!

Hey, how's dinner comin' alo...

?!

This yer way of rebellin', ya little punk?!

Ha! You wanna go round-and-round with me, turkey?!

Bring it!

Both of you stop it right now!

Oh, Aaaaaarctooos!

Yeah? Whatcha need?

I'm kinda in the middle of training here.

Arctos

Maritimus

I have a big ol' favor to ask you!

Just between us bears!

This have somethin' to do with that ice cube?

Also, we're dragons.

Yes, and I KNOW you're gonna love it!

This is special ice made from hot spring water!

Huppity hup!

If you could just melt it, please?

BURN, BABY, BURN!

FWOOSH

Now we have a portable hot spring!

Oh yeah, that's the stuff...

He never wanted to leave.

Zodiark has taken on human form for a stealth mission.

To truly embrace my role, I studied the ancient **art of servitude.**

I have now become a full-fledged **"cutie butler."**

YOU'RE A WHAT NOW?

Humanoid Zodiark

I have learned the **"Adorbs Devotion Beam"** skill, which uses the power of love to ward off evil spirits.

Only experts can do it without incantation. I must shout the name each time I use it.

Er, I think someone was playing a little prank-a-roo on you there.

Hee hee!

Humanoid Mercury

Still, I guess being overly devoted is sort of your deal, huh?

Nnngh...

Maybe you should throw in some cute slang around it so it doesn't sound quite so formal and stilted.

Yes, I see...

So be it!

Yum tum in the tum-tum! Cutie lunch!♪

Tell me your worries! Cutie tea!♪

I'll totes protect you! CUTIE PUUUNCH!♪

Yeaaah, now it's just cloying.

SO CUTE

This is really tough...

YEESH.

Oh no! The cookies aren't gonna be ready in time for the party!

I better buy us some time by making latte art!

Housekeeper Pia

Here, lemme help you carry that cup of—

WHAT THE HELL IS THAAAT?!

The horror...

I'm sorry! It's hard to draw pictures with milk!

Eeep!

Eugene

Leif

Perhaps you could use yam paste inste—

LET ME TRY!

No! I could never trouble a princess to—

Don't worry, I've actually always wanted to try my hand at this.

whooosh

Chelle

Hmm, this is quite difficult... Let's try again!

Hey, lemme take a crack at this.

Don't forget the yum-yum magic!

Urrrgh... Too many lattes... Gonna burst...

I suppose that means the party is over.

Let's just pack the cookies up for him.

Oogh...

Oh no!

Aww, would you look at that? He fell asleep with his tongue out!

Cinder Drake

ZZZ...

OH CRAP!

blep

That's sooo cute!

Rena

You don't see Euden anywhere, do you?!

No, I don't. What a shame.

A RELIEF, more like!

If he saw a dragon lookin' this cute...

AWWWWW...

...he'd be mush for the rest of the day!

I could stare at you forever...

EGADS!

*Artist's Depiction

Er, but won't it be worse if he finds out he missed this?

What he don't know can't hurt—

GASP!

How long has he been standin' there?!

Dammit! The cuteness already claimed him!

Did he just pass out standing up?

I TOLD YA THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

At long last, Sheila's heart has returned.

My heart still recalls what happened while my soul was away...

I apologize for having been so cold toward you.

Aw, no big! I'm just glad you can smile again.

Sheila

Sadly, even a small smile causes my face to hurt now.

Ohz noz! Yeah, you were blank-faced all that time, so I bet your muscles are pretty dead, huh?

creeeep

creeeep

IF IT'S MUSCLES YOU NEED, I'M YOUR GAL!

smoosh

I'll show you how to tighten up those facial muscles!

Celliera

Eep!

Like this?!

Oh. It went back to normal...

Yeah, they're stubborn little fellas, so you can't expect immediate results.

Ohhh...

And everyone's body is different, but I bet you'll see results soon enough!

Like so!

Please make it stop...

TAAA...da?

Notte's heart is begging for release— and so are her muscles!

Alright, Elisanne! Let's be off!

Yes, let's!

I can't believe we're going to a signing from the great romance novelist **Katt Sandra!**

Maid For Each Other

Aoi

You have my thanks for coming along. I would be far too nervous alone.

Aw, it's my pleasure! Also, I'm actually pretty interested myself.

Oh, look! There's Katt Sandra!

WOW!

Uhhh...hang on. That's **Cassandra.** Why is Cassandra sitting in the author's...?

Thank you, dearie.

Wait... **Katt Sandra is... CASSANDRA?!**

Cassandra

NONONO **THISCAN'TBE HAPPENING!**

Psst! Hey! It's your turn!

Let's ask her more about this later, yeah?

Oh geez oh geez oh geez...

RIGHT! I'LL GET MY AUTOGRAPH AND THEN...

Maid For Each Other

Me mumble gonna... come find... you later...

Thought me know you...but me don't... so much to learn... mumble

pant

pant

Pull it together, Elisanne! You sound like a total weirdo!

Oh ho!

Maid For Each Other

A moment later, Elisanne was hauled away by security.

It turns out Cassandra has been writing romance novels on the sly.

I figured I'd be caught once my books grew popular...

But I never thought YOU would come to one of my signings, dearie!

See comic #440

Mmgh... Me...big fan...

Cassandra

Er, I mean, what led you to take up writing?

I thought research was your life's passion.

Well, research doesn't pay for itself, love!

Heh.

Such cut-throat reasoning...

In fact, Heinwald's been selling mystery novels to raise money for his own work.

What?!

Oh yes. The chap does book signings and everything.

Heinwald

He has this whole "mystery author" persona he cooked up. Silly, really, but it seems to work.

So he tries to match the mood of his works? How impressive!

Masked

Silent

Weeeell, not so much.

He just thinks it's a real hoot to talk to Curran when the big lug doesn't know who he is.

How cruel!

Can't wait for your next book, Mr. Author!

Curran